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## PMA 'goat' pays ultimate price of justice in Moroland

**By Grace Cantal-Albasin**
*PDI Mindanao Bureau*

THE "GOAT" OF THE CLASS OF 1998 KNEW EXactly what he would do when he got out of the Philippine Military Academy.

It didn't matter that Paulman Sadat Tamano landed at the bottom of the list of PMA graduates that had earned him the class label.

PMA/A4

## Mining probe body urges Lafayette license revoked

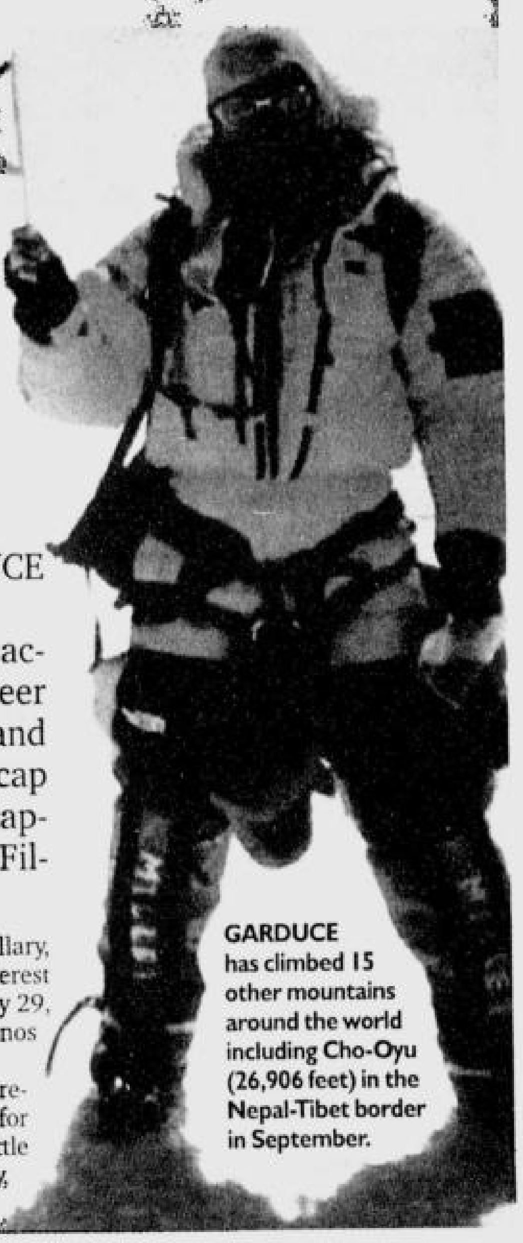
**By Christian V. Esguerra and Christine Gaylican**

SAYING IT WANTED TO SEND A STRONG MESsage to investors that the Philippines was "not a nation of prostitutes," a Malacañang-formed commission yesterday urged the government to review a mining law that allows foreigners 100 percent ownership of local mines, and to stop the

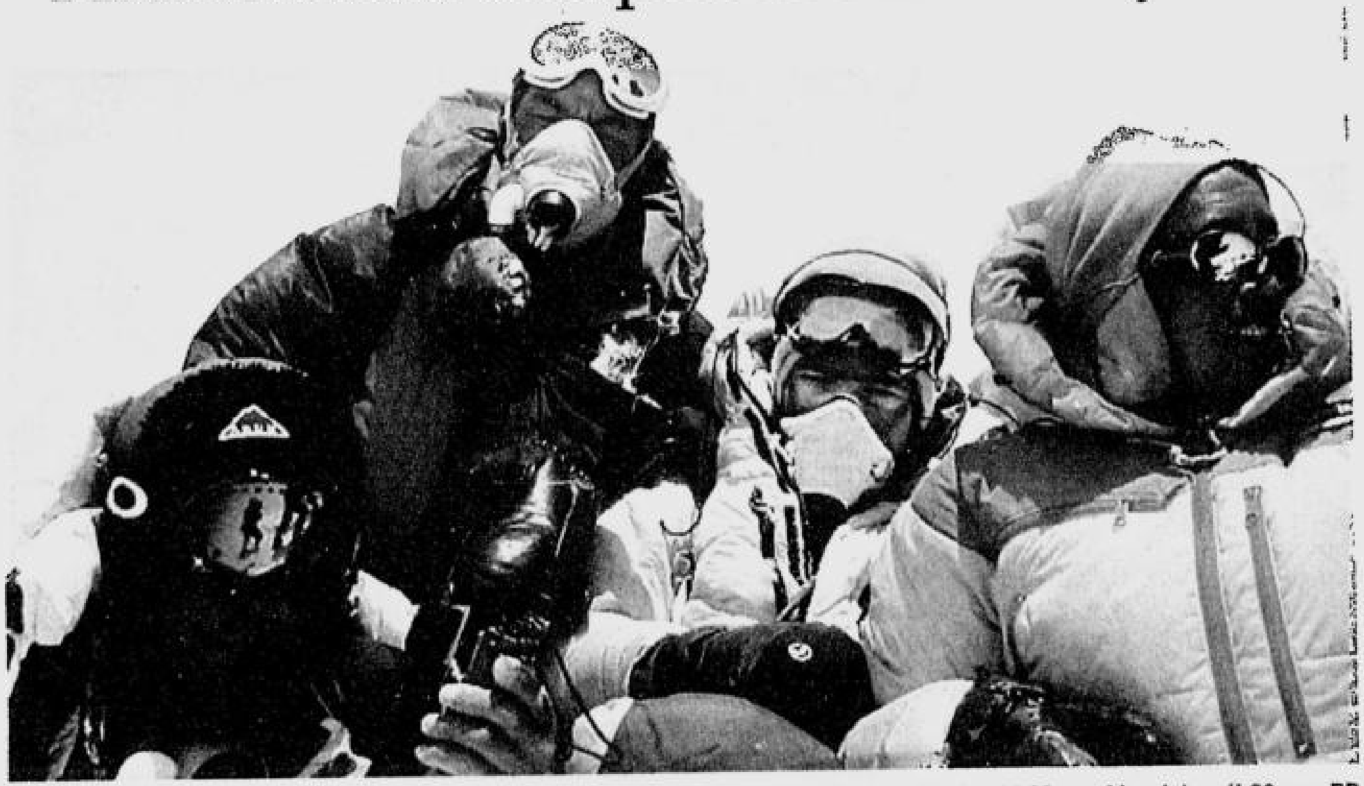
MINING/A6

# Garduce makes it triple treat for RP

## First Everest conqueror Sir Hillary hails 3 Filipinos



GARDUCE has climbed 15 other mountains around the world including Cho-Oyu (26,906 feet) in the Nepal-Tibet border in September.



THE DREAM COMES TRUE for Romi Garduce (second from right, flanked by his Sherpa guides) at 11:20 a.m. Nepal time (1:20 p.m. RP time), May 19. With a record unmatched by any Filipino mountaineer, Garduce, according to his colleagues in the UP Mountaineers, played it cool, by not turning the Everest climb into a race to the top but keeping safety top of mind. PHOTO COURTESY OF GMA 7 NEWS

**By Alcuin Papa**

AND ROMI GARDUCE makes three.

The Philippines' most accomplished mountaineer has achieved his dream and added Mt. Everest to his cap of accomplishments, capping a banner week for Filipino climbers.

New Zealander Sir Edmund Hillary, who first reached the peak of Everest with Sherpa Tenzing Norgay on May 29, 1953, congratulated all three Filipinos for their feat.

"I have nothing but the greatest respect for the [Filipino] expedition, for the determination and the will to battle on and go to the summit," Hillary, now 87, said in an interview yesterday with GMA 7.

"My heartiest congratulations to Leo, Romi and Erwin for their success in getting to the top. Very good luck to them. They must have been strong and determined," he said.

Garduce, 37, made it to the top of the world's highest mountain at 11:20 a.m. Nepal time (1:20 p.m. Philippine time) yesterday with the aid of oxygen despite deteriorating weather on Everest's south side.

He had made the trek back to Camp 4 (8,000 meters or 26,000 feet) as of press time. Depending on the weather, he was expected to stay there overnight or head to Camp 3.

He will spend a day at Camp 2 today before returning to Everest's Base Camp (5,400 meters or 17,700 feet) on Sunday.

As he descended from the summit, Garduce sent out a strong message to other mountaineers wanting to scale the Everest: It is not an impossible dream.

Speaking in a live interview over GMA network's "24 Oras" evening newscast, he said: "In behalf of the Pinoy summiteers Leo (Oracion) and Pastor (Emata), we offer our success to the Filipino people as a symbol that the impossible dream is possible."

Garduce said the summit was only about six square meters in area but was sloping.

"There weren't much people up there because of the bad weather so there was space," he said, referring to other climbers who reached the summit about the same time he did.

Garduce said he was able to plant the Philippine flag atop Everest but had to pull it out soon after because leaving flags there was not allowed.

He said he had little time for picture taking, and had to take turns with seven other climbers so that he could have his picture

GARDUCE/A8

## 'We were exhausted and hungry, but mountain forgiving and accepted us'

**By Alcuin Papa**

EXHAUSTION, HUNGER AND THIRST stood in the way of Filipino mountaineers Leo Oracion and Erwin "Pastor" Emata in their quest to conquer the mighty Everest.

But the mountain was forgiving, and, in Emata's case, "favored" him.

"The trail was still fresh and my Sherpa guide and I had a difficult time. There was thick snow and we had to fix the lines. We are lucky the mountain accepted us," Oracion told ABS-CBN last night in Filipino.

Oracion reached the summit on Wednesday afternoon, the first Filipino to wave the Philippine flag on top of the world.

He climbed for some 15 hours from Camp 4 (8,000 meters) before reaching the summit.

Oracion encountered "traffic" on the way to the peak because he was climbing with a big number of mountaineers. His group was the first to make it to the summit in this climbing season.

"There was a delay because we had to wait for the Sherpas to fix the lines. I was the last person to reach the summit and the last one to leave," he said.

The 8,000-meter-high point is considered the Death Zone, where lack of oxygen combined with severe exhaustion begins to take a toll on a climber's body.

WE WERE/A11

## Lucio Tan one of big donors behind climbers

**By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.**

RAISING MONEY IN A TROPICAL, THIRD World country like the Philippines in order to climb the highest of the world's "Seven Summits" is as difficult as going to the top of Mt. Everest itself.

This was how Arturo Valdez, leader of the first Philippine Mt. Everest expedition 2007, described the challenges he and his team faced to convince corporate sponsors to bankroll every mountaineer's dream.

As late as mid-February this year, when Everest conquerors Leo Oracion and Erwin "Pastor" Emata were already acclimatizing in Nepal, Valdez and his team were still scrounging around in Manila for the much needed funds.

With only a few weeks left before the team's departure for Nepal, they were still short of cash to help pay for the Sherpas or local climbing guides.

As mandated by Nepal's law, all climbers scaling Mt. Everest must be accompanied by Sherpas, who are not only familiar with the terrain but also help in carrying critical equipment and supplies.

"Mr. Valdez always told us about the difficulty of finding partners for the climb," said Iris Reyes, associate account director of Stratworks, a marketing and communication agency which signed up as a partner of the expedition. "Most people could not grasp the fact why a Filipino would want to climb the world's highest mountain. The concept was not tangible and a lot felt that the expedition was too risky."

One of the few who immediately saw the significance of having the first Filipino climb Everest was taipan Lucio Tan.

Tan's companies—Philippine Airlines (which contributed roughly P5 million worth of airline tickets for the team) and Asia Brewery's Summit Natural Drinking Water (P3 million in cash)—were among the expedition's most generous backers.

When the team paid a courtesy call on the tycoon at his suite in Century Park Hotel in mid-February to thank him for

LUCIO TAN/A11

AHA! LAGOT KAYO NGAYON!

## From 'Ehem' to 'Aha,' primer for whistle-blowers

**By Volt Contreras and Armand N. Nocum**

BEFORE YOU WRITE THAT EXPOSÉ on your favorite corrupt "tong-gressman," get some insurance.

The war on graft and corruption now comes with a suggested checklist for citizens who intend to launch their own battles, according to an upcoming book called "Aha! A Whistleblower and Tipster's Primer."

To encourage more whistle-blowers to come forward and make them feel they are not alone, "Aha!" a Jesuit-backed publication, offers tips on how these brave individuals can prepare their exposés, find the right allies, and face the expected risks.

A preview of the book was presented yesterday at a forum-work-

FROM/A4

### THE KILLING CONTINUES

## Woman is 10th leftist activist slain in 2 weeks

**By Greg Refraccion**
*PDI Central Luzon Desk*

BALANGA CITY—YET ANOTHER MEMber of a militant group, a woman, was felled by assassins here on Thursday.

The dead woman was identified by Balanga police as Annaliza Abanador on the basis of the ID card found in her handbag, according to SPO4 Sonny David. The name was also confirmed by the woman's sister.

But the Kilusan para sa Pambansang Demokrasya (KPD) identified her as Anna Liza Gandia, 35, who organized women workers for the KPD affiliate Pagkakaisa ng Kababaihan in Bataan. She left two children.

Abanador was alone in the clothes and gift shop where she worked as a cashier when she was shot dead by two motorcycle-riding men armed with .45 cal. guns, a KPD report said yesterday.

She was shot five times in the body, twice in the face, and once each in the nape and thigh, police said, citing autopsy results.

"Others have died from two or four bullets. But [the killers] made sure she wouldn't live," said Aurora Broquil, KPD chair in Central Luzon.

"They've turned more brutal. They have no pity whatsoever," Broquil said.

Police said Abanador was attacked at 4:30 p.m. but that a customer discovered her body about one-and-a-half hours later.

Broquil said Abanador was the third KPD leader killed in Bataan in the last five months, after Irma "Cathy" Alcantara, KPD provincial secretary general, and Audie Lucero, Youth for Nationalism and Democracy provincial chair.

She was the 10th victim of extrajudicial killing in two weeks, according to Robert de Castro, secretary general of the militant party-list group Bayan Muna.

The human rights advocacy group Karapatan said at least 585 political killings had occurred since President Macapagal-Arroyo took power in 2001.

Broquil said the rising number of unsolved murders showed that the Arroyo administration was "inutile to stop the atrocities."

"This annihilation of any and all forms of opposition reveals that democracy and freedom are a farce. All laws and democratic institutions are an absurd guarantee," she said.

Dr. Francisco Nemenzo, former president of the University of the Philippines and now chair of the Laban ng Masa, condemned the murder of Abanador and called on junior military officers to stop the political killings.

WOMAN/A6

E-mail: pr_news@inquirer.com.ph

Second FrontPage

Text us your feedback: inquirer news name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

**WEATHER FORECAST**

FORECAST: Northern and Central Luzon will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy to at times cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms.

SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY KATE PEDROSO, PDI RESEARCH/05/19/06

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Metro Manila | Partly Cloudy | Iloilo/Bacolod | Partly Cloudy |
| Baguio | Cloudy with Rains | Roxas | Partly Cloudy |
| Tuguegarao | Cloudy with Rains | Cebu | Partly Cloudy |
| Laoag | Cloudy with Rains | Tacloban | Partly Cloudy |
| Clark Zone | Partly Cloudy | Gen. Santos | Partly Cloudy |
| Tagaytay | Partly Cloudy | Zamboanga | Partly Cloudy |
| Legazpi | Partly Cloudy | Cagayan de Oro | Partly Cloudy |
| Calapan | Partly Cloudy | Davao | Partly Cloudy |

# 'Jueteng' back; STL blamed

## PNP chief confirms resurgence of illegal numbers game

By Tonette Orejas, *PDI Central Luzon Desk*
and Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes, *PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

CAMP OLIVAS, PAMPANGA—GOOD-BYE, jueteng; hello, jueteng.

Director General Arturo Lomibao, chief of the Philippine National Police, has confirmed the resurgence of jueteng operations in "various places in Luzon," and blames the return of illegal gambling on the operations of the Small Town Lottery (STL) which started in March.

LOMIBAO

PADACA

"For [several] months, [there were] no operations of jueteng, perhaps [the game] came back because of the operations of STL," Lomibao told reporters after yesterday's groundbreaking rites of the Pampanga police's camp at the provincial capitol.

STL, he said, was being used as a front for jueteng. The two operations share some similarities.

But in some raids, suspected jueteng activities turned out to be legitimate STL operations, Lomibao said. There was confusion because STL license-holders had hired former jueteng collectors.

Lomibao did not describe the extent of jueteng operations. Neither did he name the areas where the illegal numbers game had returned.

According to the latest reports from the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office, STL is run in Angeles City by the Lake Tahoe Gaming Corp., in Bataan by Sunset Bay Research and Marketing Group, in Bulacan by Diamond Gaming and Research Center Corp., in Quezon by Pirouette Corp., in Occidental Mindoro by Royal Viva Research, and in Laguna by Ramloid Corp.

STL operations run by the Benchmark Acquisition International Corp. in Quezon City have been suspended. Sun Cove Corp. and Novo Mega Gaming Corp. have not started their test runs in Pampanga and Nueva Ecija, respectively.

Lomibao also did not suggest the need to stop STL.

The PNP stands to get 5 percent from the 30 percent charity fund of STL. It was not clear if the amount was based on a per area income or on the total charity fund contributed by all license holders.

### Jueteng survey

In Pangasinan, a survey conducted by the Krusada ng Bayan Laban sa Sugal in areas covered by the Lingayen-Dagupan Archdiocese showed there was no jueteng collection or draws in Dagupan City, but the game was slowly returning in 14 towns of the archdiocese.

Lingayen-Dagupan Archbishop Oscar Cruz, national chair of the Krusada, said in the 381 villages surveyed, jueteng was found to be "rampant" in 130 villages, "moderate" in 173, "negligible" in 72 and "none at all" in six villages.

Cruz said the surveyed villages represented about 20 percent of the total number of villages (2,004) in 14 towns. There were 1,708 respondents in the survey conducted in the first and second week of May.

Cruz said jueteng in Pangasinan is still "low-key and in the process of re-establishing its roots."

He gave a copy of the survey to Supt. Noli Taliño, deputy provincial police director for operations, who admitted that some "guerrilla" operators were insistent on reactivating jueteng in some towns.

### Help from GMA

Isabela Gov. Maria Gracia Cielo Padaca yesterday said she had lost faith in the PNP and sought help from President Macapagal-Arroyo to stop the revived jueteng operations in her province.

"Every time we want jueteng stopped, [do] we have to go to Malacañang? It's disgusting," she said in Filipino.

She said she was getting "frustrated" and had stopped communicating with Chief Supt. Jefferson Soriano, Cagayan Valley police director, who supposedly had not acted on her demand to relieve Senior Supt. Oscar Fiesta of his position as acting Isabela police director.

Soriano said he was "observing due process" before acting on Padaca's request.

### No jueteng in Isabela

Padaca said she had asked Isabela Rep. Edwin Uy to personally relay her request to Ms Arroyo for the removal of Fiesta and the reinstatement of Senior Supt. Percival Barba.

Padaca said she believed that the assignment of Fiesta, formerly Soriano's chief of staff, to Isabela was purposely made to pave the way for the resurgence of jueteng.

Uy met with the President on Thursday.

"[Ms Arroyo] said she would direct [Interior] Secretary [Ronaldo] Puno to act on this," Padaca said, quoting Uy.

"I only want one thing—that jueteng not be allowed to return in Isabela. We have lived peacefully for one year without this," she added.

### Jueteng posing as STL

Meanwhile, police have assured STL operators of "unhampered" runs after the PCSO accused some local policemen of harassment.

PCSO is bankrolling the STL test runs in Luzon.

A police spokesperson said STL is "unhampered in several test areas in Luzon."

But Senior Supt. Samuel Pagdilao said the police had received reports that gambling operators were taking advantage of the similarities between STL and jueteng to reintroduce the illegal numbers game.

Pagdilao also raised the possibility that some STL franchise holders may "actually be engaged in jueteng activities and were only using STL as a convenient cover."

This week, PCSO chair Sergio Valencia said his office had received reports that STL operators were being harassed by police officers to discourage legal competition with the illegal numbers game.

"Initial reports submitted to our police identify several policemen in partnership with local gambling lords as those responsible for the resurgence of jueteng," Valencia said. *With Luige A. del Puerto and Melvin Gascon, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

# *Plinky's ex-lover faces charges*

By Armand N. Nocum

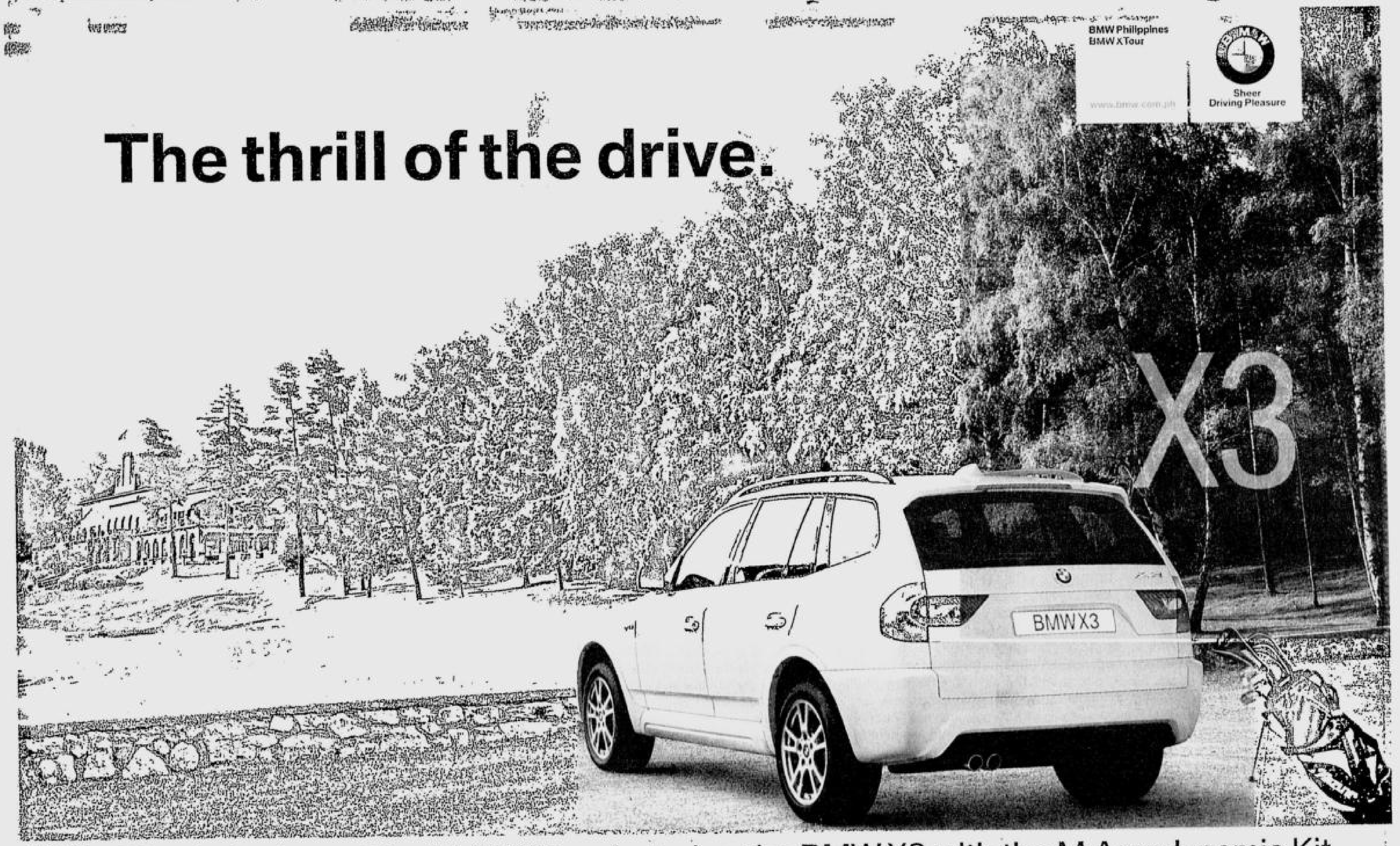
A STATE PROSECUTOR YESTERDAY recommended the filing of criminal charges against the former live-in partner of actress and fitness expert Plinky Recto for alleged physical abuse.

In an 8-page resolution, State Prosecutor Hazel Decena-Valdez said there was probable cause to charge Magdaleno M. Pena, the father of Recto's 2-year-old son, with domestic abuse for violating the "Anti-Violence Against Women and Their Children Act" or Republic Act 9262.

"After a careful and judicious evaluation of the evidence at hand, the undersigned find sufficient grounds to engender a well-founded belief that an offense of violation of (RA No. 9262) has been committed and that respondent is probably guilty thereof and should be held for trial," Valdez said in the resolution.

The DOJ prosecutor gave credence to the "evident and undisputed" facts that both the complainant and the respondent were in a "dating relationship" when the June 29, 2005 incident happened; and that complainant sustained injuries during the incident.

Pena earlier claimed that Recto sustained her injuries in the course of a struggle to assault him, while he exerted efforts to mollify her. He asserted that complainant was the attacker and not himself.



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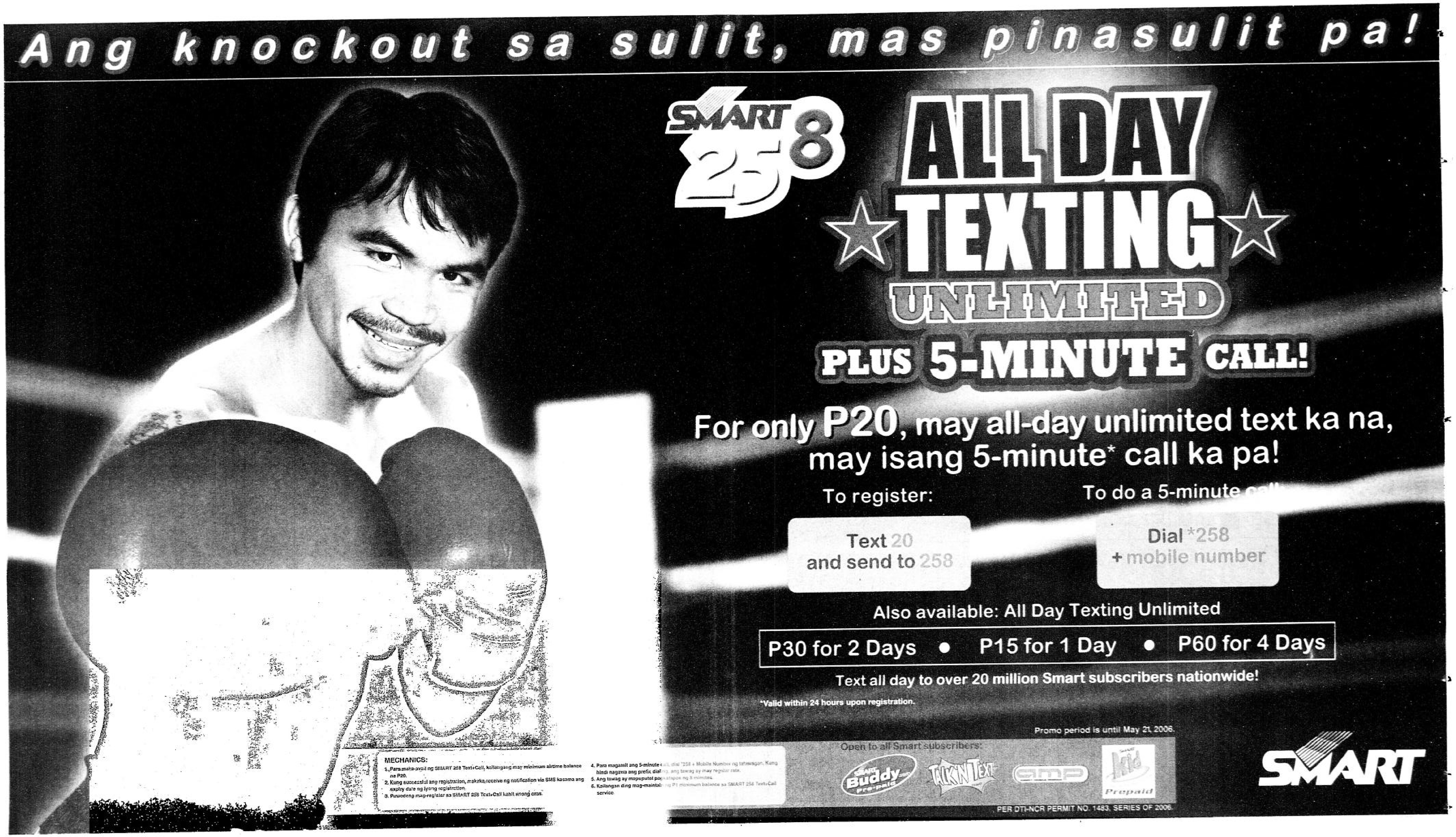

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# PMA 'goat' pays ultimate price of justice in Moroland

From page A1

This had actually given him a chance to say his piece to a rousing applause on graduation day, which coincided with the centennial celebration of the Philippine Revolution.

"It would be fitting for the Filipino people to look back at their past and discover the things for them to face the future," said the scion of a politically influential Maranao family.

Family and friends say his vision was to bring peace to Mindanao with his hometown of Marawi at the edge of the lovely Lake Lanao a beacon of light in the troubled region.

At 1:30 p.m. on Dec. 11, 2005, a fusillade from M16 Armalite rifles and cal. 45 pistols snuffed out Tamano's dream.

Gunmen aboard a Nissan Frontier pickup had overtaken Tamano's Toyota Hilux near the SM mall in Cagayan de Oro City and opened fire, sending his vehicle crashing onto a mahogany tree beside a concrete gutter.

Tamano, a 29-year-old first lieutenant in the Army intelligence, and his aide, Pfc. Nabral L. Bara, sustained multiple gunshot wounds and died on the spot.

The family of Tamano later brought double murder charges before the City Prosecutor of Cagayan de Oro against Aminolah Mangurun, a former mayor of Kapai, a remote municipality in the hinterlands of Lanao del Sur rich in timber.

Five others were named in the charge sheet. Last month, the prosecutor began a preliminary investigation of the case.

## Fit of jealousy?

The complaint says Mangurun, in a fit of jealousy had Tamano murdered, suspecting he had an affair with his wife Rachmah, the incumbent Kapai mayor. She was a childhood friend of the Tamano children.

Mangurun denies the allegation as "mere fabrications." He likewise denies he owned the pickup truck the gunmen used in the assault on Tamano.

Shahlimar Tamano, brother of the slain officer, told the INQUIRER that Mangurun wanted to provoke a "rido"—a bloody ritual of vengeance exacted for perceived insult or hurt.

Without outside intervention, such family conflicts—in a region torn by revolts, communal violence and tribal animosities—could rage for generations.

Tamano came from a conservative Muslim family that has stood for peace and service to government.

His father was an education secretary in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao. Shahlimar is a director in the Department of Tourism.

He was named after assassinated Egyptian President Anwar Sadat—a man known as a peacemaker, who shared the 1978 Nobel Peace Prize with Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin for their efforts to bring peace to the Middle East.

His family could not be goaded to exact blood for blood, says a PMA classmate who requested that his name not be used because of the sensitive position he occupied in the military.

TAMANO: Vision of peace in his native troubled land.

"Sadat was made to join the military not because we want war but because we want peace. Our father had announced that to everyone," said Shahlimar.

And so, the family has decided to go through normal judicial channels in seeking justice for Tamano to set an example, in spite of provocations.

Shahlimar referred to the recent strafing of an uncle's house in Tugaya town in Lanao del Sur.

"This is part of a continuing struggle to show the Maranaos that the system works," said Shahlimar.

## High cost of justice

But going through that judicial process is proving costly and tedious, said Shahlimar. "We are not a poor family, but we are having a hard time financially. What more for the people of Lanao."

The high cost of justice has perpetrated a vicious cycle of violence and lawlessness in Mindanao, he laments. It is a losing battle particularly in the Tamano home province of Lanao del Sur.

In Marawi, there's only limited jobs available in government offices and the Mindanao State University. Young men gravitate around politicians who act pretty much like warlords.

Slights are settled out of courts, in an eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth mode.

A strapping bachelor, Tamano had served as an aide to a defense undersecretary upon his graduation from the academy.

He later went to intelligence school at Camp Aguinaldo before going on combat missions against insurgents in Negros and Mindanao.

He received numerous awards for outstanding service, in dismantling rebel strongholds and busting a huge drug network that operated out of Mindanao.

In confronting Moro insurgents, "there's a hesitation on his part, but he was determined to make a difference," said his PMA classmate.

"That was his style. I lead my men to war. I am a Muslim fighting against a Muslim, but I am doing this for the good of the country," he said.

The "goat" of PMA was far from reaching his vision but his family is seeing to it that justice will be served in the way that he has conceived it.

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# From 'Ehem' . . .

From page A1

shop at the Asian Institute of Management in Makati City. One of the speakers was Dr. Ronnie Amorado, national coordinator of the "Ehem! Aha!" joint project between the Office of the Ombudsman and the Society of Jesus.

Would-be crusaders, according to "Aha!" should take the following steps before rushing in:

- Secure original or certified true copies of documents; include pictures, maps, news clippings, if necessary. Reproduce them and give copies to trusted friends and family members.
- Be ready with dossiers or curriculum vitae of the people involved.
- Start keeping a journal or diary for the names, dates and other details of the malpractice being observed.
- Have a security plan; this may involve finding a safe house or an alternative address especially for the whistle-blower's loved ones.
- Change your routine and travel routes as a counter-surveillance measure.
- Report to the police, lawyers, priests, or friends any threats received; have it "blottered" if necessary.
- Prepare financial contingency for eventual legal cases.
- Approach sources of free legal aid; link up with other whistle-blowers; connect with credible, responsible media entities.
- Secure personal insurance/eternal life plan.

## Focus groups

The last item drew chuckles from the audience yesterday at the otherwise serious forum-workshop titled "Whistleblowing: Awareness, Attitudes, and Structures" held at the AIM.

The project mainly saw the conduct of several FGDs (Focus Group Discussions) on fighting graft, results of which would be compiled in the "Aha! Primer" set for release in July, Amorado told the INQUIRER.

"While the primer cannot guarantee to make whistle-blowing easy, it hopes to open avenues and create opportunities that whistle-blowers can take stock of," Amorado said in his presentation which formed the opening segments of the workshop organized by AIM's Hills Governance Center.

## Specific guidebook

"Aha!" could be considered a follow-up to a similar publication produced under the project in 2003, which also came with a catchy title, "Ehem!" Amorado explained.

While "Ehem!" was a manual on how to become sensitive and call attention to wrongdoing in government, "Aha!" would be a proactive and specific guidebook on how to elevate complaints to the proper authorities, Amorado said.

Up to 20 "Aha!" FGDs were conducted in Metro Manila, the rest of Luzon, the Visayas, Mindanao from October to December 2005.

The sessions drew "insights, suggestions, concerns" from a total of 263 respondents and participants, a third of whom have had actual experience as whistle-blowers in government or the private sector, while the rest were involved in anti-graft advocacies.

Once published, "Aha!" will be distributed for free to interested parties, Amorado said. The planned first printing targets at least 1,000 copies.

The "Aha!" project was supported by grants from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

## BIR rewards informers

The Bureau of Internal Revenue has also launched an informer's reward program.

Under the program, informers would receive a reward equivalent to 10 percent of the tax that would be collected from the suspected tax evader.

"Provide us information that will stand in court and we will go after them for tax evasion," said BIR Assistant Commissioner Aida Simborio in a briefing of the BIR's Run After Tax Evaders (RATE) at the Department of Justice yesterday.

"We have an informer's reward program so if they feel discontented and they have an information, they should come to the BIR's national investigation division or the enforcement service and provide us the information," said Estela V. Sales, assistant commissioner for inspection service.

"What is important is that we have sufficient evidence to back up our findings," Sales said.

## Watch your congressman

People could compare their congressman's net worth as reported in the papers and their businesses and properties in their congressional districts, Sales noted, adding that testimonial or documentary evidence could be submitted.

Although the statements of assets and liabilities (SALs) are not filed in their office, BIR officials said what was relevant was how members of Congress obtained their income and if they were paying taxes for it.

"Their assets should be supported by tax payments," said Arnel Guballa, head of the BIR's National Investigation Division. "The issue here is whether or not the SALs are validated by tax payments."

If people feel their congressmen or senators had underdeclared their assets and income, as shown in their SALs, then they could submit "contrary evidence," Guballa said.

A number of congressmen had declared substantially low net worth, which many people find unbelievable.

"Let's not just talk and complain; let's help the BIR gather evidence so we can pursue our case against these erring congressmen," Sales added.

## FINAL HURRAH

# GMA foes discuss impeach rap in secret meet

**By Michael Lim Ubac**

THE OPPOSITION WILL TRY ONCE more to unseat President Macapagal-Arroyo through the only legal route afforded it by the Constitution—the impeachment process.

Opposition leaders, in a secret meeting lasting four hours at the house of Deputy Minority Leader Ronaldo Zamora in Quezon City late Thursday, finally put in motion what could be their final hurrah in their bid to throw out the Malacañang occupant.

They unanimously decided to back the decision of the House minority led by Sorsogon Rep. Francis Escudero reached Monday to attempt to impeach anew Ms Arroyo on the still-unresolved question of the legitimacy of her presidency.

"Our message to Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita is, be prepared to turn over the presidency to the next president," said a confident Taguig-Pateros Rep. Alan Peter Cayetano, also a House deputy minority leader.

But the House majority, apparently having sniffed the move, challenged the opposition to cut the talk and just bring on the new impeachment complaint.

House Majority Leader Prospero Nograles said yesterday allies of the President in the House expected the impeachment drive to be "another futile exercise for lack of basis and endorsers."

Nograles and Rep. Prospero Pichay Jr. also advised the opposition not to equate the impeachment to a mere numbers game without regard to the complaints' form and substance.

Nograles said if the opposition believed that impeachment would be a mere numbers game, "then it was obvious that the majority would win because they have the numbers and they need not read or study the impeachment complaint anymore."

"We will just oppose impeachment as a party matter, being with the majority coalition," he said.

Zamora and Cayetano will reconstitute the defunct impeachment team which suffered an embarrassing defeat in Sept. 2005 when allies of Ms Arroyo pulverized the three impeachment complaints filed against her for "lack of merit."

The opposition will keep the public guessing about the specific impeachment complaint. "We agreed to have a self-imposed silence for a month, or until the impeachment case is filed, on anything that has to do with impeachment strategy and content," said Cayetano.

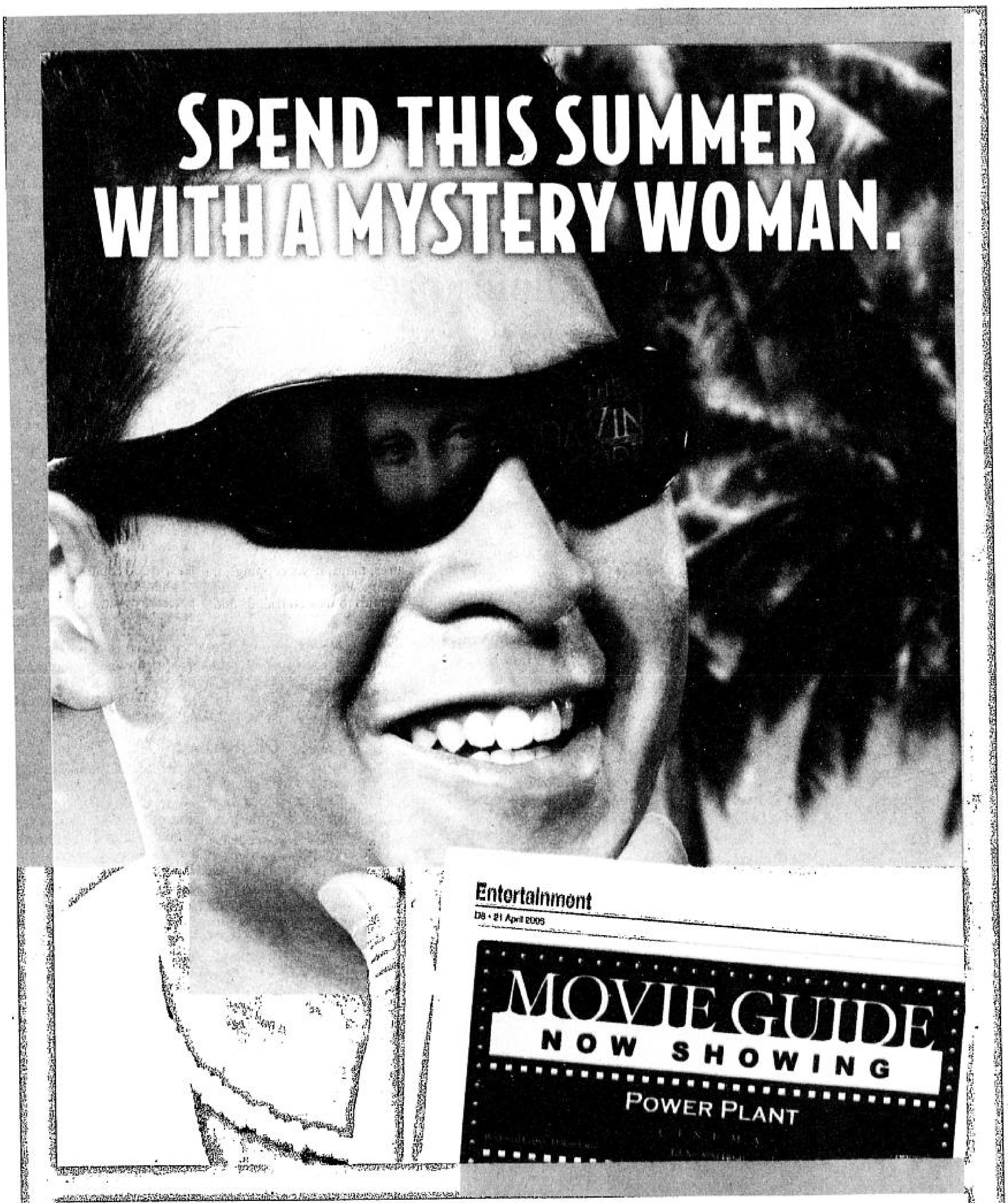
He stressed that the filing of an impeachment complaint was "not the be-all and end-all of being oppositionist but it's the only constitutional process of holding the President accountable."

Cayetano refused to identify those present in the meeting.

However, reliable sources identified them as Escudero, Zamora, Teofisto Guingona III, party-list lawmakers from Bayan Muna and Akbayan, Dinky Soliman, Butch Abad and Nely Nicolas of the so-called Hyatt 10, officials of the Black and White Movement, Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay and former Vice President Teofisto Guingona.

Critics of Ms Arroyo in the Senate sent representatives, other than for one senator whom Cayetano refused to identify.

The widow of the late presidential candidate Fernando Poe Jr., Ms Susan Roces, was reported to have sent close friend Marichu Maceda on her behalf.



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# Cops confirm abduction of Bayan member

By Tarra V. Quismundo

THE MAKATI POLICE YESTERDAY confirmed the abduction of a member of the party-list group Bayan Muna who was reported missing Thursday morning.

Senior Supt. Marietto Valerio, Makati police chief, yesterday said that Rolando Ralla Porter, a known veteran of the First Quarter Storm, was indeed abducted around noon in Makati City on May 16.

"We have already confirmed it. The relatives do not know what happened. But we already have witnesses who saw what happened, and our operatives are still out getting statements," Valerio told the INQUIRER.

The abduction was not reported to the police station and became only known when Bayan Muna broke the news of Porter's disappearance on Thursday morning.

Bayan Muna said that based on an eyewitness' account three men forced Porter into a waiting L300 van with license plate No. WAA-201 as he was buying prepaid "load" for his mobile phone at a *sari-sari* store at the corner San Rafael and Sacramento streets in Barangay Olympia, a short walk away from his house.

The witness had told Porter's half brother, Mario Bravo, that the men were in plain clothes and identified themselves as police officers.

Investigators, however, have yet to get leads on Porter's location, as well as the identity of his captors.

Valerio said the top priority for the police right now was to look for the missing activist who was the latest to be added to the growing list of militants who have either been abducted or killed.

Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay has directed the police to get to the bottom of Porter's abduction, saying residents were alarmed by the incident and the shooting of his political ally.

On March 29, Edilmar Pancipane, a former barangay council member who was known to be an ally of the mayor, was shot by unidentified gunmen along H. Santos Street in Barangay Tejeros.

"They are alarmed because these incidents, which had been previously reported in the provinces, are not occurring in Makati," said Binay in a statement, referring to the previous cases of abduction or deaths of activists and known oppositionists outside Metro Manila.

# Legislated Cha-cha illegal, says 'Sigaw' leader

By Norman Bordadora

THE LEADER OF THE COALITION PUSHing for a people's initiative for Charter change yesterday said the Senate's preferred mode of constitutional change was unconstitutional.

Lawyer Raul Lambino, head of the multisectoral coalition Sigaw ng Bayan, said that with the way things are going for Charter change in Congress, the most reliable mode for constitutional reforms would have to be his group's initiative campaign.

Lambino said that the Senate's preference for constitutional amendments by way of a resolution approved by both houses of Congress is not according to the 1987 Constitution and raises doubts on whether or not the Senate is already prepared to tackle Charter change.

"The proposal after a caucus of the Senate panel on constitutional amendments is the lowest form of double-dealing, which reveals the true nature of the Senate," Lambino said in a statement.

Lambino said the Article 6 of the Constitution—the one that defines Congress' legislative powers—does not cover constitutional amendments, which is a task not bound by the ordinary rules and procedures of legislating laws.

He said the only way Congress can propose amendments is by convening itself into a constituent body as stated in Article 17 of the Constitution.

"Because of this duplicitous behavior by our honorable senators, the people's initiative remains the most feasible, most democratic option to amend the 1987 Charter and replace our bicameral presidential system with a unicameral parliamentary government," Lambino said.

The people's initiative being pushed for by Lambino, however, also faces legal obstacles being cited by anti-Charter change groups. The country's law on initiative has been declared insufficient by the Supreme Court in 1998.

Sigaw ng Bayan has reported the verification of the almost nine million signatures already gathered in the people's initiative signature campaign.

Lambino said that as of last Wednesday, local election officials have already verified the voters' signatures in 192 of the country's 213 congressional districts.

# Woman is 10th ...

From page A1

"The idealistic young officers should live up to their avowed duty as defenders of the people and take the necessary steps to gain a heroic image for their profession," Nemenzo said in a statement.

He said the government's claim that the killings were a result of internal purges in leftist organizations was mere propaganda.

## Time and trust

In an interview yesterday at the Pampanga capitol, Philippine National Police Director, General Arturo Lomibao called on militant groups to give the PNP's Task Force Usig time and trust to do its work.

The task force was formed to look into the wave of political killings.

"Let us give it time to show if it is credible enough in the eyes of the public, because investigation boils down to evidence and witnesses," Lomibao said.

"If there is no evidence or witness, investigation cannot proceed. So half of the solution rests on civilians," he said.

Lomibao said the impatience and distrust of militant groups were understandable.

"[But] if they believe in the democratic system, which means due process, they should give the task force time to do its job. In the final analysis, if they are not satisfied, they can try other means," he said.

## Little progress

In Manila, PNP Deputy Director General Avelino Razon Jr. said Task Force Usig was making little progress in getting the cooperation of militant groups whose key leaders had been targeted for assassination.

"There are some groups that have manifested their support, and [other] groups that continue to be doubtful and quizzical about [its] objectives," he said when asked how far his task force had gone in soliciting the help of leftist groups.

Razon said coordination between the PNP and the sectoral groups was being established at the regional and national levels, but that there had been no word from the ground on efforts to touch base with militant organizations.

According to data provided by the task force, 93 of the 122 party-list members killed since Ms Arroyo assumed power in 2001 were from Bayan Muna, and the rest from Anakpawis, Gabriela and other party-list groups.

Militants had earlier said they would prefer the Church, the Senate or even the United Nations to conduct the investigation.

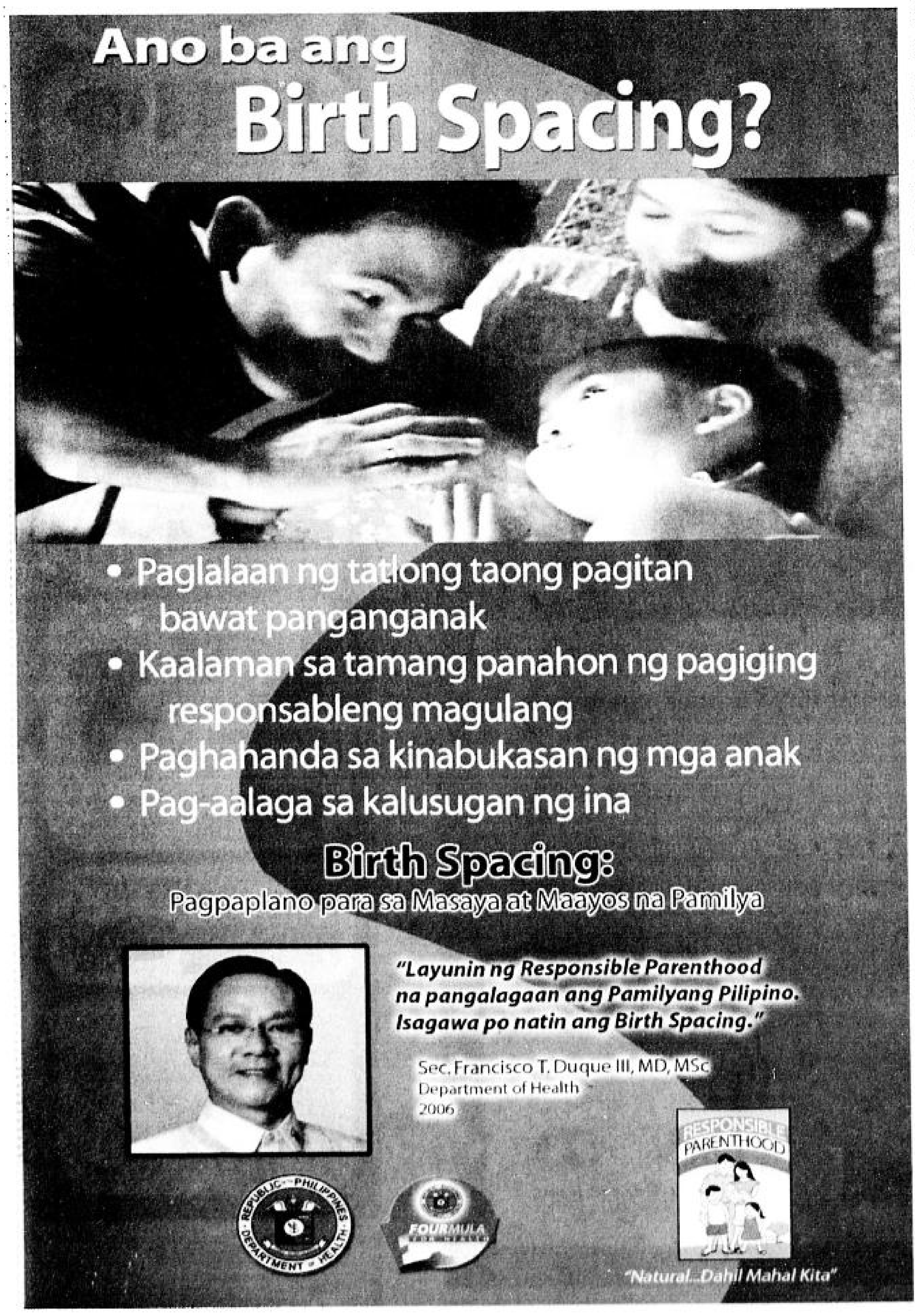
But Razon said one skeptical group, Karapatan, appeared to be opening up to the idea of cooperating with the police.

"One group that, we were told, had a change of heart is Karapatan. It is thinking of bringing the cases to the PNP, but it is also considering Congress, the Commission on Human Rights, and other forums," Razon said.

## Lack of witnesses

One of the problems identified by the task force as to why cases remained unsolved was the lack of witnesses.

"We'd like to assure [the militants] that the creation of Task Force Usig [was intended for the conduct of] a thorough investigation, to get to the bottom of all these cases and to leave no stone unturned," Razon said. *With reports from Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk; Luige A. del Puerto in Manila*



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# Filing of murder cases not enough, GMA told

By Norman Bordadora

A PRESS FREEDOM WATCHDOG GROUP has disputed President Macapagal-Arroyo's declaration that most of the killings of journalists in the country have already been solved.

In a letter to Ms Arroyo dated May 15, the New York-based Committee to Protect Journalists told the President that the filing of murder charges against suspects did not mean the killings have already been solved.

"Simply filing a murder case is not the same as solving it," said CPJ executive director Ann Cooper in the group's letter, copies of which were given to US Senators Richard Lugar and Joseph Biden, a host of international press advocacy groups and Philippine Ambassador to Washington Albert del Rosario.

"Denying the problem of impunity for killers of journalists does a great disservice to the Philippine press and to the families of the slain journalists. As an organization dedicated to defending our colleagues worldwide, we urge you to ensure the arrest, trial and conviction of those responsible for killing Philippine journalists," Cooper added.

The CPJ's retort comes in the wake of the Philippine government's answer to Lugar's inquiries about the state of press freedom in the country in light of the series of killings that earned the country the tag of most murderous country for journalists in 2005.

Presidential spokesperson Ignacio Bunye and the Philippine National Police have denied that a culture of impunity against media persons existed in the country. Bunye also said majority of the journalists' slays had already been solved, while the PNP claimed that 39 of 49 killings had already been solved.

# Mining probe body urges...

From page A1

operations of Australia's Lafayette Mining Ltd. on Rapu-Rapu island, Albay.

The Rapu-Rapu fact-finding commission headed by Sorsogon Bishop Arturo Bastes called on the government to cancel the environmental compliance certificate issued to two companies of the Lafayette Group, and for a moratorium on mining on the island.

It also asked the government to "review the Philippine mining act, specifically the provision on the ownership and management of mining firms and operations," Reuters news agency said, quoting from what it said was an advance copy of the report.

## Over-reaction

Lafayette company president and chief executive officer Carlos Dominguez said the panel's recommendation was an "over-reaction" to the environment incidents on Rapu-Rapu.

"With respect to their findings, it is in my belief that it has been exceedingly harsh and unforgiving considering that the incidents have been minor," Dominguez told the INQUIRER.

Dominguez asked what would happen to the 1,000 employees of the mines and to the economic benefits for the local community on the island if the Department of Environment and Natural Resources followed the commission's recommendation.

"We hope the DENR would also consider the opinion of the Sangguniang Barangay, the municipal and provincial governments there," he added.

## Dissenting view

Commission vice chair Charles Avila said in a press conference: "This country is not a nation of prostitutes—that's the message that we want to get to investors."

"The mining industry is very promising if we do it properly by not sacrificing the environment and the people's health."

One of the nine members of the commission refused to sign the 169-page final report, saying he disagreed with some of its conclusions.

"I am unable to affix my signature to the final report of the commission as I disagree with a number of its findings and recommendations," commissioner Gregorio Tabuena wrote Bastes. "I also feel that the commission has gone beyond its mandate."

## Mining output

In its report, the commission asked the Bureau of Internal Revenue to investigate the Lafayette Group "for underreporting of ore/processed ore production and violations of tax laws."

It asked the government to order the company to "pay back all back taxes equivalent to those waived because of incentives/privileges for the whole duration of their mining operations."

The commission found supposed discrepancies between the amount of gold ore the Rapu-Rapu Minerals Inc. (RRMI) reported to the DENR's Mines and Geosciences Bureau Region 5 (67,693 metric tons) and the amount the company reported to the commission (136,180 metric tons).

## Lafayette's side

"The excise tax paid by the RRMI is probably only half of what it ought to pay the national government," the commission said.

The commission also noted an alleged forgery of a town council's signature in a resolution endorsing Rapu-Rapu as an ecozone.

Answering the commission's claim about discrepancies in the firm's gold ore reports, RRMI's legal counsel Bayani Agabin said what the company reported to the MGB was "consistent" with what it reported to the commission.

On the alleged tax deficiencies, Agabin said the "wrong formula" must have been used in computing the amount of gold ore that had been mined.

## Present proof

Agabin said the firm was aware of allegations about forgery in the ecozone certification resolution "but that is an allegation that has yet to be proven."

"You cannot simply cancel a permit based on a simple allegation. That is why we have the courts," Agabin said. "Somebody accuses someone of rape. That is just an accusation. You still have to go to court to prove it."

He said the company had admitted there had been lapses in operations "but these were minor and all the remedial measures had been completed."

## DENR scored

Mining operations on Rapu-Rapu drew headlines following two tailings spills in October last year which reportedly led to fishkills and affected the fishing industry.

"The discharged tailings and effluents do not only carry cyanide but other toxic heavy metals as shown in subsequent studies made," the commission said.

The commission scored the DENR for allowing the company to resume operations six days after the first incident.

"Lafayette had no emergency mechanism to stop or mitigate this kind of incident," it said.

The commission said: "It was also negligent of the MGB officials who were coincidentally in the area on the day of the tailings incident and who conducted an on-the-spot investigation when they failed to impose immediate remediation measures on the mining company."

## Reyes will have last say

Dominguez said Lafayette would immediately meet with the Pollution Abjudication Board and show proof that the company should be allowed a test run.

"The burden of deciding whether we should be allowed to run will solely rest on (Environment) Secretary (Angelo) Reyes," he said.

He said that the company had paid dearly enough when it was fined more than P10 million and that more than P400 million had been spent to put up necessary remedial measures in the area to prevent any environmental disasters in the future.

The mine is the first in the Philippines to be developed by a foreign company in almost four decades and has so far yielded 2,500 ounces of gold.

The Chamber of Mines of the Philippines said it believed that the government would be fair and consider the best scenario for the Rapu-Rapu Polymetallic Mines of Lafayette.

## Respect findings but ...

"We respect their findings but it is just one opinion. We have presented a separate independent study that the DENR and Malacañang should also consider in making their final verdict for the Rapu-Rapu project," Chamber of Mines president Benjamin Philip G. Romualdez said.

He noted that the Bastes report did not tackle any issue on ownership and the industry had remained steadfast in its stand that any review that would strengthen the Philippine Mining Law was a welcome development for the industry.

# Navy to start eviction of overstaying officers today

THE PHILIPPINE NAVY WILL START TODAY the eviction of 56 overstaying senior officers from their quarters in Fort Bonifacio despite strong resistance from some who have asked the courts to stop their eviction.

"We will push through with the eviction at 7 a.m.," said Navy spokesman Capt. Geronimo Malabanan.

He said those who promised to voluntarily leave would be given a few days' consideration.

"Those who did not signify their intention to voluntarily leave are the primary targets of the eviction teams," Malabanan said.

As of yesterday, Malabanan said 29 officers have sent word to the Navy leadership of their willingness to vacate their quarters at the Bonifacio Naval Station which they have been occupying for the last decade at least.

But the rest have decided to put up a fight and have asked for a temporary restraining order from the Makati and Pasig regional trial courts.

Malabanan said Navy chief Vice Admiral Mateo Mayuga is open to "negotiate" with the retired officers, but on the condition that they withdraw their petition for TRO.

He said two commodores promised to leave if no TRO was issued by the courts.

The Armed Forces of the Philippines insists that these quarters are still military property.

"These officers knew from the very start that the houses they are squatting into were erected by the AFP for active officers. By shamelessly taking undue advantages over their subordinates, junior officers and underclassmen, these retired officers have manifested a sincere lack of sense of honor and ungentlemanly conduct not worth emulating," the AFP said in a statement.

AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Generoso Senga said they are serious about evicting their former superiors, but he stopped short of accusing them of "ungentlemanly conduct."

*Maielle Montayre*

# What slay plot? Senga asks Gonzales

**By Dona Z. Pazzibugan and Luige A. del Puerto**

ARMED FORCES CHIEF OF STAFF GEN. GENEROSO Senga yesterday dismissed the claim of National Security Adviser Norberto Gonzales of a communist plot to assassinate President Macapagal-Arroyo, Cabinet officials and opposition leaders.

Senga said he has not heard of an alleged deployment of a New People's Army hit squad in Metro Manila.

But the police are taking no chances.

The Metro Manila Police have created special units to track down the alleged communist hit squad.

The teams would be deployed to areas in the capital where these hitmen would most likely be staying, according to Director Vidal Querol.

"This is one big concern, especially if the report comes from the Secretary of National Security Agency, who is the highest security official," Querol said.

The head of the Presidential Security Group, Brig. Gen. Delfin Bangit would also not confirm Gonzales' claim, which Bangit said was based on old information that has not been verified.

"We don't have that information... I have not seen such report mentioned by the National Security Adviser, but we continue to be vigilant," Senga told reporters in Camp Aguinaldo yesterday.

He refused to comment on Gonzales' claim. "I cannot make an assessment. We have not seen the report," he said.

"The revelation of Secretary Gonzales was based on information available to them... And because of that, as far as the PSG is concerned, we are also reviewing the same report," Bangit said.

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**Bernardine of Siena**

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**Gospel:** John 15:18-21

Jesus said to his disciples, "If the world hates you, remember that the world hated me before you. This would not be so if you belonged to the world, because the world loves its own. But you are not of the world since I have chosen you from the world; because of this the world hates you.

"Remember what I told you: the servant is not greater than his master; if they persecuted me, they will persecute you, too. Have they kept my teaching? Will they then keep yours? All this they will do to you for the sake of my name because they do not know the One who sent me."

**Commentary**

*Paul meets Timothy and together they preach, and the Church grows stronger. And they travel, accepted in some places and rejected in others. The Good News of Jesus is the only thing they bring and leave behind them. Jesus tells the disciples that we will be hated by certain groups in the world, but in this we are just like our master. We will be harried and our words disrespected, just as they were disrespectful of Jesus. But we are to make sure that rejection comes because of the gospel and not because of our actions or scandal in the community.*

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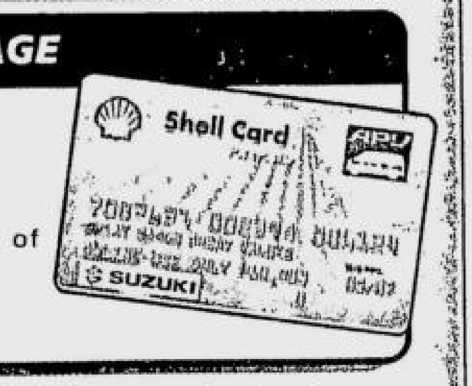

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# RP hosts for 1st time festival of 'theater for all'

By Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

WHAT WAS A GROUP OF DRAMAtists from Burkina Fasso doing in Muñoz City in Nueva Ecija, known as the Science Center of Central Luzon?

The visiting dramatists from the Center for Training and Research in Live Performing Arts in Burkina Fasso conducted a drama workshop on classical and indigenously African works for faculty and students from Muñoz and other towns and cities of Nueva Ecija.

But where in the world is Burkina Fasso? Formerly known as the Upper Volta, it is a small landlocked country in West Africa of about 10 million people, which used to be part of the French protectorate.

It is clear across the other side of the world. But for three days its visiting dramatists, whose official language is French, were feted by Muñoz officialdom, led by Muñoz Mayor Nestor Alvarez, and the townsfolk to characteristic Filipino hospitality and a generous display of native talents.

## Exchange of cultures

In turn, the townspeople treated them to a cultural fare that included interpretative dances from the Central Luzon State University woven around the theme of planting and harvesting of rice, as well as from the Bungkos Palay Dance Troupe of Mayor Nestor Alvarez.

The African dramatists are part of the 150 or so foreign participants—mainly top university faculty and students from 12 drama institutions around the world—to the World Festival of Drama Schools.

## RP hosts for first time

The festival from May 16 to May 31 is a major event of the 31st Unesco-International Theater Institute (ITI) World Congress with the Philippines hosting for the first time in the ITI's 58 years.

The Philippines won the bid to host the biennial world cultural olympics at the 30st Congress in Tampico, in the state of Tamaulipas, Mexico, two years ago.

The World Drama Festival here appears to have been patterned after the recently concluded Southeast Asian Games here. The cultural events are being distributed around the country in order to maximize cultural exposure both among the host and guest cities, instead of confining them only to the capital.

The visiting dramatists will conduct workshops on drama skills development and methodology in 11 assigned cities, while their hosts will treat them to a cultural fare along distinctly indigenous themes.

## Regional workshops

These regional workshops and exchanges will be in addition to the several workshops being held in various schools in Metro Manila by leading foreign drama professors, actors and stage directors.

The theme of a "Theater for All" along the lines of cultural diversity and art as a tool for social development was conceptualized by Unesco education chair Dr. Corneliu Dumitriou, a Rumanian, and Cecile Guidote Alvarez, executive director of the National Commission on Culture and the Arts and ITI Philippines president, and mass media communications professor Nick Lizaso, the festival director.

The 11 participating RP cities were chosen for the strong presence of educational institutions and a heavy cultural flavor and tradition in their respective regions. Lizaso stressed that there will be an average of seven schools participating per region. It's easy to see how great a cultural boon this will be for the faculty and students around the country.

## Peruvians to Vigan

For instance, Ilocos Sur Gov. Chavit Singson brought aboard his private plane dramatists from the National School for Dramatic Arts of Lima, Peru, in South America, for a vibrant cultural interaction. Singson assured the Peruvians that there would be no need for Spanish interpreters for them, as this ever-loyal colonial city has preserved its generous share of Hispanic culture.

Another city with a rich Hispanic past, Zamboanga City, will put its fabled chabacano, an interesting pidgin Spanish that's bound to shock and awe the Hispanic world, to good use when it hosts the theater faculty of Veracruzana University of Mexico.

## Baguio, Isabela

Baguio, with its dense concentration of schools, led by the UP and St. Louis University, will host the National School of Drama of India, while Santiago City in Isabela, under Mayor Amelita Navarro, will interact with the University of Cape Town's drama department.

Around 12 schools in Isabela, led by the La Sallette University, will participate in the exchange and draw observers from all over the Cagayan Valley.

Legaspi City will interact with the Shanghai Theater Academy of China, with whom it's currently working out a sister-city relationship. Students of the Bicol University will show off the legends of Mayon in dance and drama, but observers will come from Naga and Iriga cities as well as Sorsogon.

## Fireworks for Rumanians

Cagayan de Oro City, seat of Xavier University, will receive the National University of Drama and Film of Rumania, which is named after I.L. Caragiale, a famous Rumanian actor. Students from as far as Iligan City and Bukidnon are expected to participate there, and Misamis Oriental Gov. Oscar Moreno is preparing a fireworks show the Rumanians may never have seen before.

Iloilo City will host the Karpenko-Kary Kyiv National University of Theater, Cinema and Television of the Ukraine with the University of San Agustin in the lead.

## Bias for Singapore

Puerto Princesa City will interact with the Theater Department from Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts of Singapore. Mayor Edward Hagedorn specifically chose to interact with Singapore, and the speculation is that he's biased for that city as it's also clean and green.

Davao City, seat of Ateneo de Davao, has specifically asked to host the Faculty of Dramatic & Music Arts of Teheran University in Iran, possibly due to its strong Muslim population. But observers will come from as far as General Santos City and Davao Oriental.

## Link to the world

In addition to the on-the-spot cultural exchanges in these 11 regions around the country, our culture and tourism will get a big boost. On Wednesday night, all of them were simultaneously linked up with their respective visitor countries from all over the world by webcast, as they commenced the cultural performances.

Moreover, each foreign delegation will be filming its experiences in its assigned region and all of these films will be compiled at the Unesco headquarters in Paris and for world distribution.

## World heritage sites

Each delegation will be taken, after the cultural interaction, to a distinct World Heritage Site here.

For instance, the South Africa drama group will be taken from Isabela to Banaue to view the world-famed Ifugao Rice Terraces, before motoring to Manila. The Ukranian group will visit the beautiful Miag-Ao Church in Iloilo, while the Singapore group will be treated to the Underground River in Palawan.

The Chinese will get to photograph the magnificently sculpted slopes of the world's most perfect cone, Mayon Volcano.

## Choirs

In all these cultural exchanges of the 31st Unesco-ITI World Congress, surely one of the most awaited events will be the interaction of heavenly voices between our very own Loboc Choir of Bohol and the famed Chimalli Choir of Mexico right in Loboc, Bohol. The Chimalli Choir was formed by children from the Meced Program, identified in a brochure as "children in especially difficult circumstances." Once they have been incorporated into this program, these Mexican kids are given health care and education to improve the quality of life.

It was then that the idea of creating a state choir arose, as a result of which auditions were held in each of the 15 municipalities involved. 450 children were selected to form 14 municipal choirs, and out of these, another 50 were chosen for the Chimalli Choir.

## GMA dinner for delegates

From Loboc both choirs will be brought to Manila to sing at the dinner to be tendered by President Macapagal-Arroyo at Malacañang for the congress delegates on May 22 evening, and the opening of the Leaders' Forum, to be led by Unesco Executive Director Keichiro Matsuura.

The interaction between the Loboc and Chimalli Choirs alone would make the entire congress well worth the effort and expense.

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# Garduce makes it triple treat for RP

From page A1

snapped.

Garduce spoke in a phone patch from Camp 4 on the upper slopes of the mountain.

"This is a symbol that the Filipino can [do it]. This is not the last time that we will achieve extraordinary things."

But Everest would not be his last adventure, Garduce said.

"Maybe after two or three months (of rest), I was thinking that, next time, I might try the South Pole or the Sahara," he said, referring to the icy Antarctica region and to the world's largest hot desert in northern Africa.

Garduce said he encountered strong winds on the South side of the Everest and the effort left him exhausted.

"We had a bit of bad luck in our climb because since last night, around 9:30 p.m. Nepal time, the wind was blowing hard," he said, speaking in Filipino.

He said the wind blew hard for hours.

"We didn't know if we were going to have clear weather at all," he said. "But we had to try for it (the summit) and we got it."

Garduce said the route to the South Summit and the climb up the vertically steep and dangerous Hillary Step close to the top, where many other mountaineers have died in their quest for glory, were the most difficult phases of the assault.

Reporting yesterday from Base Camp, GMA 7's Jiggy Manicad said Garduce announced his successful ascent in a radio message: *"Pare, nasa summit na ako. Yoohoo!"*

## Garduce: No turning back

Garduce, an IT manager, also said strong winds and snow were buffeting the peak.

According to mounteverest.net, members of an Italian expedition headed for the summit said they were turning back to Camp 4 at around midnight of Friday Nepal time because of strong winds.

But they said other teams were pushing on, including Alpine Ascent, a US-based commercial expedition, and Garduce.

But around 4 a.m. yesterday Nepal time, the weather reportedly started to clear and some expeditions set off in another push for the summit.

The other night and early yesterday, the weather at the Base Camp also deteriorated, cutting off radio contact between Garduce and his support team.

But the weather cleared later, until his feat was confirmed through radio.

It was a 1-2-3 finish for Filipino mountaineers.

Only on Wednesday, Leo Oracion became the first Filipino to set foot on the summit of Everest. On Thursday, Erwin "Pastor" Emata followed suit.

## At Base Camp

Oracion and Emata, both members of the First Philippine Mt. Everest Expedition (FPMEE), jubilantly returned to Base Camp yesterday at around 4 p.m. Nepal time, ABS-CBN reported.

Emata was ahead of Oracion, but waited for the latter so they could enter Base Camp together.

They were heartily welcomed by FPMEE co-leader Arturo Valdez and other members who had served as support team.

The FPMEE said the entire team was preparing to descend from the Khumbu region, and would depart for Manila before month's end.

In a statement, the FPMEE extended congratulations to Garduce, saying "the Pinoy Everest expeditions would not have been complete without his success."

## Many mountains

"After Leo and Pastor's symbolic back-to-back triumphs on Mt. Everest … Romi's successful summit ascent only proves that the Filipino can achieve the impossible," it said.

Garduce, a native of Balańga, Bataan, has scaled many mountains—Aconcagua in South America (6,962 meters or 22,842 feet), Kilimanjaro in Africa (5,895 meters or 19,400 feet), Elbrus in Russia (5,642 meters or 18,499 feet) and Cho-Oyu in the Himalayan range (8,201 meters or 26,906 feet).

The first three are part of the Seven Summits, or the highest peaks in each of the continents.

Everest also belongs to this list and is the dream of every mountaineer.

Cho-Oyu is the sixth highest mountain in the world.

Mountaineers who have scaled all the Seven Summits are considered world-class.

Garduce has climbed and trekked on 15 other mountain ranges around the world since the 1990s—a record unmatched by any other Filipino mountaineer.

He has been a member of the University of the Philippines Mountaineers since 1991, and is an expert diver and adventure racer.

"The UP Mountaineers is proud and happy of Romi's accomplishment. He did it the UPM way by not treating it as a race and having safety in mind. This is only the beginning. We are glad Romi and the other two climbers are all safe and that nothing bad happened to them," said UPM member Ninoy Leyran.

## Principal sponsors

The climbs of Oracion and Emata on one hand and of Garduce on the other were principally funded by broadcast networks ABS-CBN and GMA 7, respectively.

The rival networks had deployed crews that gave blow-by-blow accounts of the climbs.

Yesterday, while GMA 7 broke into regular news to announce Garduce's achievement, ABS-CBN largely ignored it, instead carrying live coverage of Oracion and Emata's descent from Everest. *With an AFP report*

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# *After Time mag, Gonzalez vents ire on TV reporters*

AFTER PUTTING A TIME magazine correspondent on the watch list, Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez yesterday vented his ire on some television reporters for taking video footages of his bulletproof car.

"Are some media groups intentionally exposing my person to possible assassination?" Gonzalez asked.

He castigated reporters and cameramen of Channels 2, 7 and 5 for "exposing me" to people said to be out to kill him.

On Thursday, the DOJ chief bared an alleged plan by leftist groups to assassinate him and the President. The threat, he said, prompted the police to provide him with a bulletproof car.

"I am at loss as to the media value that can be gained from exposing my security vehicle to the public at large except that it had given important leads to those people who are monitoring my movements," he said.

On Thursday, Gonzalez ordered Time correspondent Nelly Sindayen placed under the watch list of the Bureau of Immigration to compel her to reveal those behind the alleged Feb. 24 coup attempt. *Armand N. Nocum)*

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## Correction

IN THE MAY 18 issue, a story on Page A16—"House still a millionaire's club"—did not state the complete name of the representative of Aurora. The congressman is Juan Edgardo—not just Edgardo—Angara. His father Edgardo Angara is a senator. The same article misstated the area represented by Congressman Gilbert Teodoro. Teodoro represents the first district of Tarlac—not Pangasinan.

* * *

*Readers may send their requests for correction of factual errors in writing to the Day Desk, Philippine Daily Inquirer, PDI Building, Chino Roces Avenue corner Mascardo Street, Makati City, fax Nos. 897-47-93/94; e-mail address: daydesk@inquirer.com.ph.*

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# Anti-graft project launched

AN ANTI-CORRUPTION PROJECT FUNDED by the International Development Fund of the World Bank will reduce corruption opportunities through systems reforms in various government transactions, according to the chair of the Presidential Anti-Graft Commission.

PAGC Chair Constancia P. de Guzman made the optimistic prediction following the kick-off meeting on the project in Malacañang on Tuesday

The project, funded by a $300,000 grant from the World Bank, aims to strengthen Internal Audit Units in the government. It will be implemented by PAGC with the assistance of SGV & Co. for an eight-month period at a total cost of at least P6 million.

The project has three components—a quality assessment of the internal audit function; the development of a quality assurance program for internal audit units; and the development of an internal audit manual.

The kick-off meeting was intended to facilitate coordination during project implementation and was attended by representatives of 14 of the 15 agencies and project partners. They included 11 from the national government agencies, one from constitutional bodies, and two from the local government units.

The agencies included the Office of the President and the departments of public works and highways (DPWH), health (DOH), education (DepEd), defense (DND) including Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) and Philippine National Police (PNP), interior and local government (DILG), agriculture (DA), budget, and social welfare.

De Guzman said, "When fully implemented, the project is expected to reduce corruption opportunities in various government transactions through systems reform."

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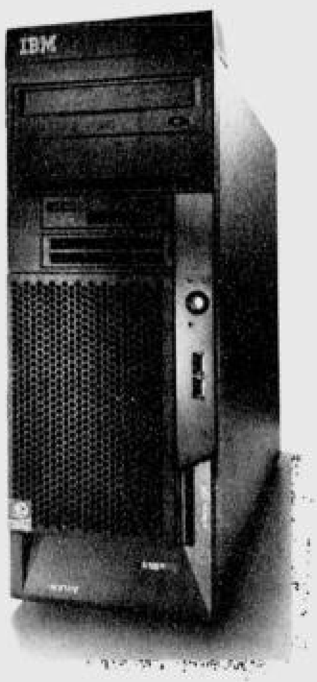

# What it takes to be a mountaineer

**By Delfin T. Mallari Jr.**
*PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

SUMMITRY: Leo Oracion in the video footage he takes at the top of the world where he plants the Philippine flag.

TV GRAB/ABS-CBN

LUCENA CITY—WHAT DOES IT take to be a mountaineer?

Fitness is the first and essential requirement, according to Noel Suministrado, a mountaineer from Quezon province.

"One must be physically fit to tackle long walks, steep climbs and leg-busting descents, and to carry back-breaking loads," he said.

A pastor of the United Church of Christ of the Philippines, Suministrado described mountain-climbing as also a test of one's mental acumen.

"One must have common sense, sensitivity and good decision-making skills that can be achieved through dedicated training and years of actual climbs," said Suministrado, who started to climb mountains in 1992.

He cited the importance of a genuine concern for the environment, summing it up in the popular traveler's adage, "Take nothing but pictures, kill nothing but time, leave nothing but footprints."

The Protestant pastor who also teaches theology helped found the Tayabas Mountaineers, which is based in Tayabas town at the foot of Mt. Banahaw.

In 1994, the Mountaineering Federation of the Philippines held its annual climb and congress in Banahaw de Tayabas.

## Don't scrimp on gear

Suministrado warned that a beginner should not be too fast to hit the mountain trail.

He said a beginner should be able to master basic mountaineering courses like equipment familiarization, compass reading, wilderness travel, first aid and rope knots, among many others.

"We received our training from the University of the Philippines Mountaineers and have since then scaled peaks here and abroad," he said.

Suministrado said it was imperative to use equipment—tents, parkas, backpacks and boots—that have been tested for mountain use.

"One must be willing to spend on these. Scrimping on equipment may test the line between life and death up in the mountains," he said.

A good set of climbing equipment costs around P30,000, according to Suministrado. "It depends on the brand," he said, and rattled off other required gear such as mountaineering stoves and cooking sets, ropes and sleeping bags.

Suministrado said the expenses would get more steep if one ventured into technical rock climbing, wherein one would need carabiners, harnesses and passive and active protection gear.

In 1995, Suministrado went into rock climbing and established routes at Tinandog Wall in Barangay Tinandog, Atimonan, 165 kilometers south of Manila.

"Since then, various climbers here and abroad have scaled this limestone beauty," he said.

Suministrado has also climbed mountains abroad.

He had his first taste of alpine climbing in the French and Swiss Alps, and climbed the rocky Tors in Port Hills in Christchurch, New Zealand.

## Other sites to climb

With the government's temporary closure of Banahaw to trekkers to pave the way for its rehabilitation, Suministrado identified other mountains and places to climb, like Mt. Makiling in Los Baños, Laguna; Mt. Halcon in Baco, Oriental Mindoro; Mt. Makulot in Cuenca, Batangas; Tinandog limestone wall along the Maharlika Highway in Atimonan; and Pinagbanderahan, also in Atimonan.

He issued the reminder that these places had rules and policies on trekking and climbing.

He said climbers should secure proper permits from local authorities before venturing out.

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# Lucio Tan one of big donors behind climbers

From page A1

PAL's and Summit's sponsorships, Valdez sounded out his team's cash problems regarding the hiring of Sherpas.

Tan obliged by handing out an additional P1 million cash, which meant the expedition was a go.

Regie Pablo, the expedition's team coordinator, told the INQUIRER that the team was initially surprised why Tan had taken so much interest in the expedition.

But after sitting down with the tycoon for two hours that day, Pablo said the team members realized that Tan shared their passion for climbing the world's tallest peak.

When asked why he was supporting their cause, Tan said that if he were younger he, too, would have dreamt of scaling the Everest.

## A nation's pride

Tan also felt that the expedition was a "a matter of national pride."

"We were impressed with his extensive knowledge of geography, especially the little known tidbits about Mt. Everest, Nepal and Tibet," said Pablo. "We were told that he rarely sits down and talk with people he does not know."

Pablo said that during the meeting, Tan told them: "Let's do it for the country. I'd like to see the Philippine flag waving at the summit of Mt. Everest. Make the Philippines proud."

## Each climber costs $65,000

"The permit to climb alone would cost you $70,000 for a minimum of 7 people," said Pablo.

Although he could not say what the budget of the expedition was, Pablo said a commercial climb—where climbers are pooled and make their ascent together—costs $65,000 each and this would include the fees for the Sherpas, food and oxygen.

Aside from PAL, Summit, Stratworks and ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp. (media coverage and communication equipment), the expedition's backers were Coleman (climbing and camping gear), Fitness First, Mozcom, Power Up, Med Central, National Sports Grille, the Rudy Project, Kodak and the Philippine Accident Manager's Insurance.

In contrast, the parallel climb of Romi Garduce mounted by GMA Broadcasting Corp. had an easier time finding sponsors, probably because the overhead cost was lower and Valdez's team had already generated interest by the time the climb came to be seen as a race between rival networks, according to a GMA official.

Rikki Escudero, assistant vice president for GMA's news and public affairs, said its marketing team was quick in getting a full list of corporate backers, such as North Face, My Marvel Taheebo, Caltex, Revicon, Summit Mineral Water, San Miguel Corp. I-MAX Theater and SM Cinema.

## Cost to GMA: P13M

Escudero said GMA alone forked out P13 million to bankroll Garduce's climb, not counting the uplink equipment used to communicate to the Everest base camp from the peak, "which costs us a pretty penny."

She said the response to the Filipino's conquest of Everest was amazing.

"We don't have snow-capped mountains here but every Filipino was touched by the coverage. It makes you proud to be a Filipino," said Escudero.

GMA was also approached by Valdez's team in 2004 but Escudero said: "We could not give them the 70-hour air time because back then, we didn't have QTV (another GMA TV station), unlike our rival," Escudero said.

GMA's opportunity came when North Face offered a tie-up for the climb of Garduce, which would cost P2.5 million.

"It was an open and honest transaction. He said when he comes back he will liquidate all expenses," Escudero said.

## Covering history

Escudero said it would be "simplistic" to say that the corporation's interest in the climb was merely for profit and prestige. "It's meaningful history. As a network, you want to cover history," Escudero said.

The P13 million GMA spent for production and operation expenses covered their crew's expenses, like airfares, accommodations, supplies, and $2,400 for three Sherpas. Not included was the amount they spent for special equipment, like C-Band uplink from London and a Thuraya satellite phone.

The network also gave P2.5 million to North Face for Garduce's expenses, like logistics, high risk insurance premiums, plane fare and equipment that was not provided by The North Face, as well as phone calls and food. The amount has to be liquidated.

Stratworks' Reyes said the expedition was hopeful that the success of this expedition would generate enough mass to boost funding for the 2007 project of sending a full expedition (7 to 10 members) to climb the Everest using the North and South access. *With a report from Alcuin Papa*

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# 'We were exhausted and hungry . . .

From page A1

But Oracion said the lack of oxygen at that altitude was not the only factor that made the ascent arduous.

"I was exhausted, hungry, and there was nothing to drink. I had a hard time walking and I had to use my remaining energy to push for the summit. That was all the energy I had left," he said.

Emata, on the other hand, seemed to have been on a lark, reaching the top of Everest from Camp 4 in a little more than seven hours.

"It was very easy. The mountain favored me. There was no difficulty at all," he said.

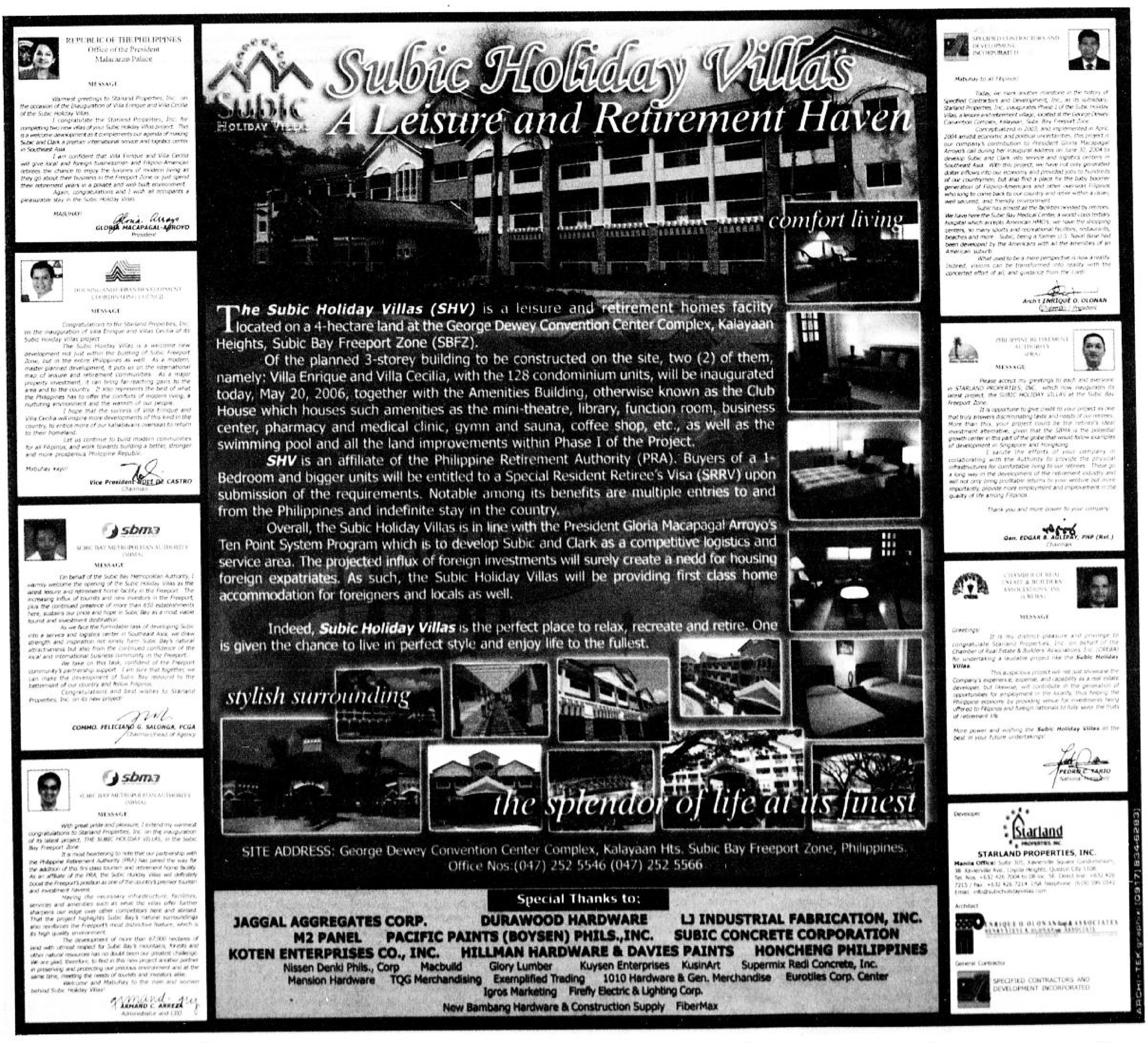
But on the way down, Emata said, his water supply dwindled to ice.

"There was a strong wind from Camp 4. And the descent was harder than the climb up. But I thank God for bringing us to safety," he said.

Oracion and Emata thanked their compatriots for their successful climb of Everest.

"To all Filipinos, especially those who prayed for us, thank you and Mabuhay," said Emata.

"Our feat showed that if we unite, the Pinoy can," said Oracion.



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*Again, congratulations and I wish all occupants a pleasurable stay in the Subic Holiday Villas.*

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Of the planned 3-storey building to be constructed on the site, two (2) of them, namely: Villa Enrique and Villa Cecilia, with the 128 condominium units, will be inaugurated today, May 20, 2006, together with the Amenities Building, otherwise known as the Club House which houses such amenities as the mini-theatre, library, function room, business center, pharmacy and medical clinic, gymn and sauna, coffee shop, etc., as well as the swimming pool and all the land improvements within Phase I of the Project.

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Overall, the Subic Holiday Villas is in line with the President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's Ten Point System Program which is to develop Subic and Clark as a competitive logistics and service area. The projected influx of foreign investments will surely create a nedd for housing foreign expatriates. As such, the Subic Holiday Villas will be providing first class home accommodation for foreigners and locals as well.

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Mabuhay to all Filipinos!

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CHAMBER OF REAL ESTATE & BUILDERS ASSOCIATIONS, INC. (CREBA)

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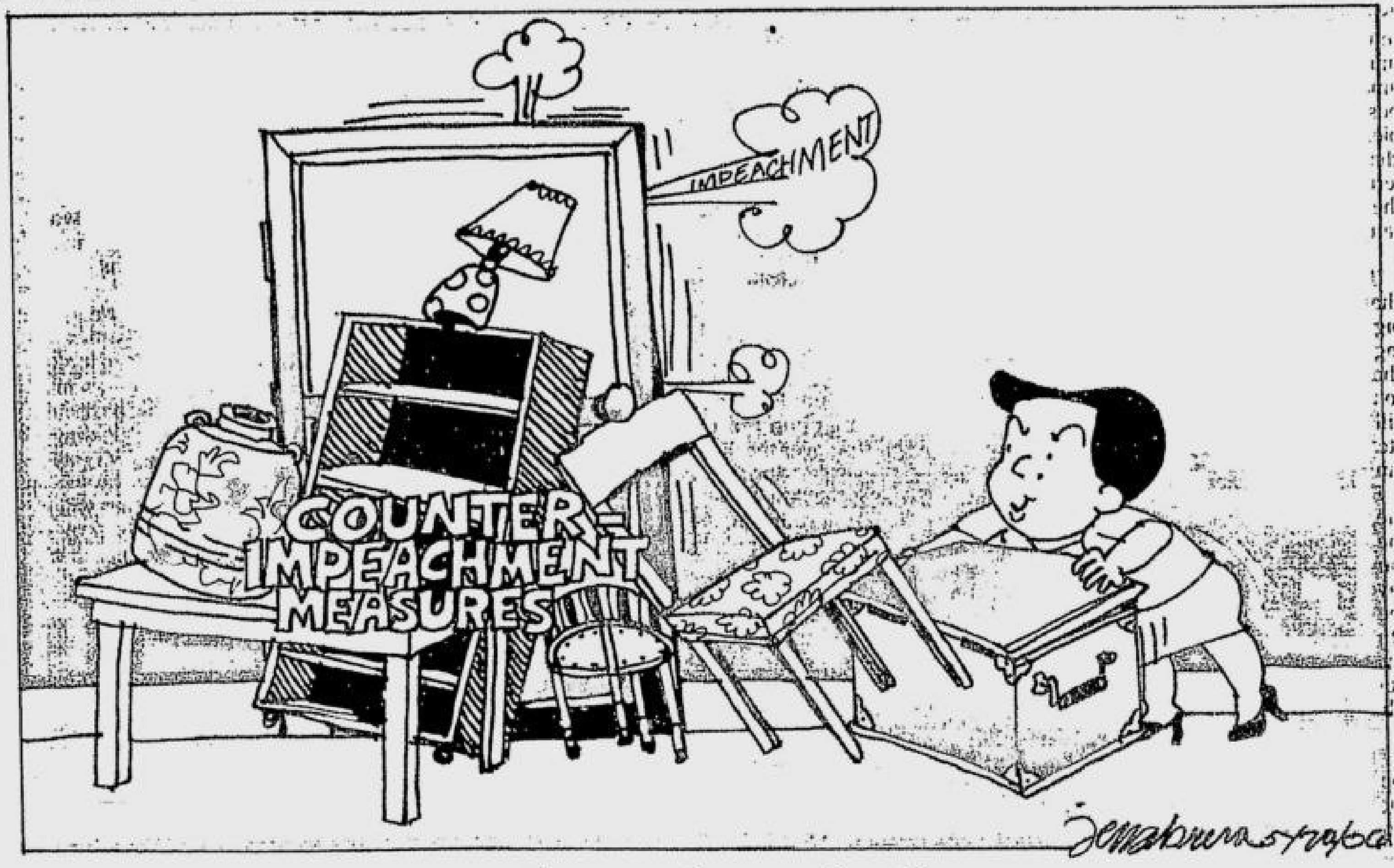

# Stalemate

**EDITORIAL**

MALACAÑANG AND ITS ALLIES IN THE HOUSE of Representatives have not given up their grand scheme to get back at the Senate for daring to assert its rights and prerogatives, especially in investigating wrongdoing in the Arroyo administration. They have been trying to coerce, cajole and trick the Senate to cooperate in arranging its own death by supporting some quickie modes of amending the Constitution, like the so-called people's initiative, which would have as the first item on the agenda the abolition of the Senate.

In its latest attempt to make the Senate agree to Charter change, administration officials suggested that the Senate committee on constitutional amendments sit down with its House counterpart to discuss the matter. That happened Tuesday when the senators, led by Senate President Franklin Drilon, attended the Legislative-Executive Development Advisory Council in what some people thought to mark the thawing of chilly relations between Malacañang and the Senate following Drilon's call for the resignation of President Macapagal-Arroyo in July last year.

The next day, however, the Senate committee on constitutional amendments headed by Sen. Richard Gordon rejected the idea of convening a constituent assembly to amend the Constitution. Gordon said that while the 1935 Constitution mentioned Congress convening as a constituent assembly to introduce amendments to the Charter, the 1987 Constitution no longer prescribes that mode. Instead, the present Constitution merely says, "Any amendment to or revision of this Constitution may be proposed by Congress upon a vote of three-fourths of its members or a constitutional convention." Gordon said this means that Congress can amend the Charter without formally convening as a constituent assembly. He pointed out that even the rules of the House of Representatives, governing amendments to the Charter, recognize this. One of those rules says that proposals to amend or revise the Constitution shall be done through a resolution "which may be filed at any time by any member."

Clear enough, and a lot simpler and faster than converting Congress to a constituent assembly. So why don't the proponents of Charter change go for it? For one big reason: It's unlikely that they can muster the needed three-fourths vote to get their amendments through the Senate, especially one that would establish a unicameral parliament that would have the effect of abolishing the Senate itself. Obviously, Malacañang and its House allies think they would have a better chance of ramming their proposal through a constituent assembly, where the pro-administration majority hopes to swamp the opposition in both the House and the Senate.

But even a constituent assembly—if it could be convened, in the first place—wouldn't guarantee smooth passage for the Cha-cha train. It would raise the still unresolved issue of how the voting will be conducted, with most senators insisting that the two houses of Congress must vote separately. It is a view supported by several constitutionalists who argue that if ordinary laws must go through the sieve of separate voting by the two chambers, then the process of amending the fundamental law must have been designed to be more rigid by the framers of the Constitution—that is, with a requirement that Charter changes be approved by a three-fourths vote in each house.

For all the noise they are making about getting the Cha-cha train on track and moving, the proponents of Charter change are finding themselves caught in a stalemate, with the Senate blocking every move they make. Why don't they begin a new game called constitutional convention?

# Immigration reform

**FOREIGN COMMENT**

TROOPS DON'T MAKE AN IMMIGRATION POLICY, AND LAME ducks don't usually inspire a following. But if President Bush keeps the pressure on for the kind of comprehensive reform he talked about Monday night, a realistic immigration policy could result.

Yet the 6,000 National Guard troops Bush wants to send to the border represent the only part of his immigration proposal he can control. The rest is up to Congress.

What's needed is comprehensive reform that includes a guest-worker program, tough workplace enforcement and eventual legalization for the current illegal population. Even without additional law enforcement, those strategies would help alleviate the chaos at the border by channeling workers into a legal, orderly process for entering the country.

Bush's speech offered hope that he's willing, finally, to really push for comprehensive reform. *Arizona Republic (Phoenix, Arizona)*

# The right to bail

**SEPARATE OPINION**

*Isagani A. Cruz*

JINGGOY ESTRADA WAS ORIGINALLY DEtained as a co-principal with his father for the heinous offense of plunder but was later granted bail on the ground, if I remember correctly, that he should be charged only as an accomplice with the corresponding decrease in his possible penalty.

This was supposed to be an application of Sec. 13 of the Bill of Rights providing as follows:

"All persons, except those charged with offenses punishable by *reclusion perpetua* when evidence of guilt is strong, shall, before conviction, be bailable by sufficient sureties, or be released on recognizance as may be provided by law. The right to bail shall not be impaired even when the privilege of the writ of habeas corpus is suspended. Excessive bail shall not be required."

Rule 114, Sec. of the Rules of Court defines bail as "the security given for the release of a person in custody of the law, furnished by him or a bondsman, conditioned upon his appearance before any court as may be required." It is a complement to the also constitutional, presumption of innocence and is intended to give the accused every opportunity to gather evidence to rebut the prosecution.

(However, this will not be necessary if the prosecution is weak because the accused will be presumed innocent and accordingly acquitted.)

The right to bail is available to every person accused of a crime except when he is charged with a heinous offense and evidence of his guilt is strong. The two conditions must concur to deny him this constitutional right that is available to all other accused not similarly situated.

Thus, if the possible penalty of the accused is *reclusion perpetua* or death but the evidence against him is not strong, he has the right to be granted bail. He will also be released on bail even if the evidence against him is strong as long as his possible penalty upon conviction is not *reclusion perpetua* or death.

Erap is a detention prisoner because he is charged with the capital crime of plunder and the evidence against him is considered strong by the Sandiganbayan. He thus falls under the exception in Art. III, Sec. 13 of the Constitution. If he were charged only with concubinage and the evidence against him was strong, or with the serious crime of rebellion but the evidence against him was weak, he would be out on bail joining the rallies against GMA.

I notice, however, that many prosecutors object to the grant of bail on the ground only of the crime charged regardless of the weakness of the evidence against the accused. Many trial judges automatically agree and ignore the second requirement in the afore-quoted Sec 13. They obviously assume that the evidence against the accused is strong if he is charged with a heinous offense, but that is not what the Bill of Rights allows.

Another rule that is often ignored rather than observed is that bail should be granted only where a person is in the custody of the law or at large. This means he is a detention prisoner. The practice, however, is to apply for bail even before a suspect is arrested and subjected to the indignity and inconvenience of confinement, however temporary, in a prison cell.

In fact, "prison cell" is a misnomer in our crowded detention jails in the centers of population. The prisoners are jam-packed in small enclosures with hardly any space for lying down and sleeping. Even seating space is for hire to paying lessees. Although they are entitled to the right to bail, they cannot afford it and so must remain under detention while they wait to be tried.

Their trials may take months and even years to conclude, often beyond the imposable penalty for the crimes they are alleged to have committed. Some of them may become so accustomed to their confinement that they will be reluctant to leave their comfortless premises and their miserable company.

There are privileged prisoners, however, who are usually allowed to remain in the air-conditioned offices of the prison wardens while waiting to be released on bail. They can benefit from the prohibition against excessive bail, which Justice Jackson of the US Supreme Court described as "a teasing illusion like a munificent bequest in a pauper's will."

In one case, the accused was required to post bail in the amount of P1,195,200, which he could not raise. It was like giving with one hand and taking back with the other hand in a clear violation of the Constitution. No wonder the fellow simply escaped, probably by bribing the prison guards. It was cheaper.

One improvement of the present Constitution is the retention of the right to bail even if the privilege of the writ of habeas corpus is suspended. It was not so during the past despotism when Marcos indefinitely imprisoned many of his enemies who were denied relief from the "great writ of liberty" by his "legitimizing" Supreme Court.

The sad note about the right to bail is that many potential convicts have availed themselves of the guaranty and deliberately made their trials move at a snail's pace while they enjoy their liberty from the long but permissive arm of the law they have violated. The courts should stop this flagrant abuse by speeding up the administration of justice, especially in criminal cases.

# Unpresidential appointments and dismissals

**GET REAL**

*Solita Collas-Monsod*

IT IS BECOMING MORE AND MORE OBVIOUS that some of the more conspicuous appointments and dismissals in government service that the President makes (she is directly responsible for the fate of some 11,000 government employees/officials) are based not so much on the best interest of the public, but more on other grounds, such as her own best interest. Her bitterest critics would claim that all her other Presidential actions are made on the same basis; but given that in their eyes she can do no right, that claim has to be discounted.

There are, however, enough glaring examples of atrocious appointments and dismissals that would make even her most loyal supporters wince. Take the appointments of Virgilio Garcillano and Manuel Barcelona to the Commission on Elections (or, for that matter, of Benjamin Abalos Sr.). The timing of those appointments made a difference in the 2004 elections. The President stubbornly ignored any and all objections to those appointments, and now she is paying heavily the price for her intransigence. (Unfortunately, so is the Comelec in particular, and the country in general.) Her appointment of Ronnie Puno, (whose reputation as an "influencer" of election results seems to be unrivalled) to the Department of Interior and Local Government is another example. People see this move as election-related; and while the 2007 elections are still a year away, the hand of the DILG is already being felt in the so-called people's initiative, such that it is called the Puno initiative—with the resulting disempowerment of the people.

Less conspicuous—but certainly just as important because of the country's problems in higher education—was the appointment as president of the Mindanao State University of someone who was not even in the search committee's short list. I am not sure how this was accomplished. The university's board of regents is headed by the chair of the Commission on Higher Education (CHED)—who should know better—while its membership includes a faculty representative and a student representative, an alumni representative and the chairpersons of the Senate and the House education committees, all of whom are supposedly independent-minded.

Maybe because she got away with that one with nary a whisper—or if there was any screaming, it could be heard only, if at all, in faraway Mindanao—she has now set her sights on the Development Academy of the Philippines (DAP). She sent the DAP board of trustees (BOT) a "desire" letter, i.e., expressing her wish that one Antonio D. Kalaw be elected as the next president of DAP, vice retiring Eduardo T. Gonzales.

What's wrong with that? Let us count the ways: (1) President Macapagal-Arroyo ignored the civil service requirement that the position be filled only after a search process had been undertaken to determine the most qualified candidates; (2) She ignored the law mandating that the position is a career position, not a political one, and that it should be filled not by presidential appointment, but by the BOT through election. It is not even one of the 11,000-odd positions that she is by law vested with power to fill with her own choices; also, the BOT is composed mostly of Cabinet members, who supposedly have her confidence; (3) in other words, she was putting her nose where it shouldn't be, in the process jeopardizing the independence of the DAP in its role as a think tank-cum-educational institution whose main foci are in governance, knowledge management, professional education and productivity; and lastly and most unforgivable of all, (4) her candidate, Antonio D. Kalaw, seems to be the least qualified of the DAP presidentiables, ranking 7th among the eight candidates evaluated by the search committee. And the reason he didn't place No. 8 was that one of the candidates failed to submit some required documents.

And it would seem that even as she hires the least qualified, she gets rid of the most qualified, like what she did with Miguel Luz (Department of Education), and lately, Sally Bulatao (National Dairy Authority). What was Sally's fault? Not the trumped-up charges about contracts inimical to the government. (Good grief, how can a pro-bono project undertaken by McCann-Erickson be inimical?) Her fault is that she is married to Gerry Bulatao, who is virulently anti-Gloria. But that weighs more than her success in developing the dairy industry, in the process giving livelihood to farmers and improving the health of the poor.

Ed Gerlock, who is doing a yeoman's work with the elderly, has this to say about Sally: "Twice in the last five years, she asked me to document the development of the dairy industry among poor farmers. I traveled to Mindanao and saw the milk-feeding program in urban poor areas of Davao—and a school (Assumption) that scrapped the junk food menu in favor of dairy products from the co-op (frozen durian-flavored milk ...), met farmers who had quit their service jobs as waiters and drivers, to work full time with the developing milk program; ... to Laguna to a plant that processed the milk from the co-op members into cheese, yogurt, 'Gatas Pinoy,' etc.; and met farmers from Bulacan with one or two cows who felt hopeful that the government was serious and they themselves had a future in the dairy industry ... Sally is both competent and committed... the government will be hard put to find another Sally Bulatao—and somebody not only owes Sally an apology."

It seems President Arroyo is extremely ill-advised, or has serious priority-setting problems. Whatever the reason, what she is doing is not worthy of her—as a person and as President.

# Cop-out

**POLITICAL TIDBITS**

*Belinda Olivares-Cunanan*

WHATEVER JOY CHARTER-CHANGE ADVOCATES may have had after the Ledac meeting, wherein both chambers of Congress signified their willingness to conduct a "dialogue" on that issue, seems to have been dashed by what's being passed off as the "Senate position." The senators said that in contrast to the House position seeking to convert Congress immediately to a constituent assembly to take up amendments to or revision of the Constitution, their position is that this will be treated as an "ordinary" piece of legislation. Meaning, the resolution to change the Charter will have to go through the interminable legislative mill, just like any bill, with the two versions having to be reconciled in the bicameral conference committee.

* * *

The senators' intention to treat the Charter change issue just like any other bill forebodes big trouble. If the Senate's poor record in passing urgent legislation is any indication, Charter change could languish there for years, just like so many urgent legislation such as the bio-fuels bill, the anti-terrorism and anti-smuggling bills, etc. If they allowed these bills to sleep, think how much worse the Cha-cha resolution would fare.

By now the senators must have realized that the presidential system has been a failure over the past 50 years, and that a unicameral parliament would be much more efficient and save us as much as P5 billion a year. But that seems not to matter to the senators, for what is of paramount importance to them is the survival of their chamber and the higher ambitions of a few. How unfair to hold hostage a whole nation's progress to those sentiments.

* * *

At this point a "legislated Cha-cha" looks like a cop-out. I sure hope they don't ignore Albay Rep. Edcel Lagman's timely reminder that the act of proposing constitutional amendments is "not an ordinary process" because it needs a "special mechanism" like a constituent assembly. The senators, perpetually looking for arguments to shelve Charter change, now also argue that the 1987 Constitution did not specifically mention a constituent assembly as a mechanism for change, unlike the 1935 Constitution. True, but this does not mean that Congress cannot resort to it: all they have to do is pass that resolution in both chambers and the constituent assembly can be immediately convened as the cheaper and more efficient way to effect Charter change. The constitutional convention that some senators insist on would most likely result in having only wives and children of legislators elected as delegates, and because of their long learning curve, it would take them forever to produce a new constitution.

* * *

I ran into Foreign Secretary Alberto Romulo at a reception recently and he was still rhapsodizing over the diplomatic coup that the President staged during her recent trip to Saudi Arabia on the "three O's." She got assurance from the Saudi ruling monarch of a steady oil supply in case world supply falters. She secured the release of over 200 overseas Filipino workers from Saudi prisons. And she made the case for giving our country observer status in the Organization of Islamic Conference, which bodes well for the peace process in Mindanao. Romulo said the President impressed Saudi officials with her intelligence and her comportment.

* * *

I got a call from Antique Gov. Salvacion Perez, one of two local officials in the presidential entourage. She was most impressed by the way GMA was welcomed at the airport by members of the royal family, even though they were reportedly far from having harmonious relations with one another.

Perez also admired the teamwork among members of the RP delegation. Cabinet members such as Labor Secretary Patricia Sto. Tomas and Energy Secretary Rafael Lotilla worked with all the RP ambassadors in the Middle East to ensure that the visit would be a success. We saw how teamwork really worked, she mused.

I sensed her saying this with some emotion, for until now the dynamic governor and her province's lone representative in Congress, Exequiel Javier, still have to work as a team.

* * *

Below is the conclusion of Sigaw ng Bayan spokesperson Raul Lambino's reply to those who criticized his claim that over the past three weeks, the Sigaw website had received nine million hits. Some critics said his claim was a fake or an outright lie.

"Our access logs analyzer is a wonder in itself as it detects not only the IP addresses but also almost the exact locations of site visitors and writers, and many other details we cannot divulge for obvious reasons. We protect these private details about our visitors—including those whose only intention is to look for lapses and wreak havoc in the site—as much as we protect our own confidential particulars.

"As for the search engines yielding 'negative' replies to queries on the Sigaw term, this is either inaccurate or an outright lie. A simple search on www.webcrawler.com will show that different search engines do show up results on the particular query. The layman must also be informed that search engines nowadays display different results for searches at different times. Meaning, a site may be on the No. 1 spot now, but at the bottom of page 1 results an hour later or totally gone from the top-ranked pages a day after. It's also elementary that search engines may take 10-12 weeks to index web pages.

"Obviously some professed bloggers can't accept the fact that the lowly people and those who suffer silently due to the state of affairs in this country would like to visit a site like www.sigawngbayan.com than their web or blog sites that are actually meant only for the elite. They must remember that there are more grassroots people than elitists in the Philippines. And most Filipinos are fed up with the fact that these elitists have lorded it over so much for so long a time in this nation—electronically or otherwise."

# A room for children

**AT LARGE**

*Rina Jimenez-David*

MORE THAN 10 PERCENT OF THE CASES handled by the Women's Crisis Center at its Women and Children Crisis Care and Protection Unit (WCCCPU) at the East Avenue Medical Center consist of rape, incest and child abuse committed against children and adolescents. This isn't counting the children of women survivors of abuse who are either themselves victims or witnesses to violence and who join their mothers at the Center.

But when the child survivors came to them, the staff of the WCC had no choice but to lump them together with the adult clients, providing them with counseling, medical and legal assistance, temporary shelter and referrals.

But today, thanks to The Body Shop, children who drop by the WCCCPU or accompany their battered mothers have a place for both therapy and recreation, where they can enjoy privacy amid surroundings better suited to their needs and more appropriate to their special requirements.

The Children's Room is a small, narrow space within the cramped confines of the WCCCPU at the seventh floor of the EAMC. But this tiny space can be considered a safe, friendly haven for children, air-conditioned, carpeted in bright blue and equipped with colorful tables and chairs, stuffed toys and educational material, and even a TV set and DVD player.

"Our counselors used to meet with children survivors in counseling rooms that were not designed with children in mind," said WCC executive director Sally Ujano. "(But) given the number of young survivors we talked with last year, we had to do something."

Fortunately, The Body Shop Philippines was looking for worthy projects to fund as part of the ongoing worldwide campaign called "Stop Violence in the Home," and thought the Children's Room was a worthy beneficiary.

* * *

BUT it wasn't just The Body Shop Philippines management that supported the fund-raising efforts for the Children's Room. The store decided to donate the entire sales profit from its Mint Lip Care Stick campaign (P50 of the P150 cost of each lipstick), as well as one day's profit of the Greenbelt store where the "Stop Violence in the Home" campaign was launched last year, to WCC, thus effectively making its customers also donors and advocates.

Dr. Sylvia Huang, president of The Body Shop Philippines, who spoke at the blessing of the Children's Room, added that "encouraging the community to do more to help those less fortunate" has always been part of every franchisee's mandate. Aside from its support of WCC, The Body Shop Philippines is committed to the "Defend Human Rights" and "Activate Self-esteem" campaigns, "raising funds and awareness to encourage people to speak out and take action against violence in the home or to generally provide means for victims of domestic violence to gain information, protection and support."

The real good news, aside from the opening of the Children's Room, is that loyal Body Shop patrons will once more enjoy the chance to help women and children survivors of violence merely by buying the Mint Lip Care Stick. Aside from donating to WCC P50 for every stick bought, customers will also be helping farmers and bee keepers in developing countries from whom the store chain buys the ingredients. And take it from a satisfied user, the stick does leave your lips "feeling soft and smooth with a subtle and refreshing minty fragrance"!

* * *

I WAS at the blessing of the Children's Room to represent the board of trustees of the Women's Crisis Center, which was established in 1989 as a response to the growing incidence of and awareness about all forms of violence against women.

First headed by the late Raquel Edralin Tiglao, and now chaired by Sr. Mary John Mananzan, the WCC is the first and only crisis center in the Philippines which offers a comprehensive range of crisis intervention services for survivors of gender-based violence. It also introduced and has since conducted nationwide training, on the "radical concept" of feminist counseling in the country.

Aside from managing the WCCCPU, the Crisis Center is also involved in training programs (mainly through the Raquel Edralin Tiglao Institute for Family Violence Prevention), research and documentation, policy advocacy and community organizing, crisis intervention and counseling, a referral and volunteers' network, as well as a temporary shelter.

* * *

NEXT weekend, May 27-28, Grupo Reposo will hold the Second Reposo Art and Music Festival, in conjunction with the annual celebration of Makati Day. Among the highlights of the Festival, which takes place along Reposo Street, since re-named Nicanor Garcia Street, which is fast becoming the "lifestyle" street of the metropolis, are a mural painting session (along the long wall of the PLDT compound), sculpture installations, performances by Coke Bolipata and the Youth Peace Symphonic Orchestra. There will be as well a street bazaar participated in by tenants of LRI Business Plaza as well as other establishments on the same stretch, including furniture and home accessory stores, boutiques, restaurants and bars.

It's no surprise that it was the management and tenants of LRI Business Plaza that spearheaded the Festival last year, for the Plaza is itself Reposo Street in microcosm. The complex, located in the former warehouse of Luzon Rattan Industries Inc., gathers furniture and lifestyle showrooms owned by both experienced and fledgling exporters, designers and manufacturers, antique shops, art galleries and studios, a spa, and two dining places: Caffe Caruso and Caffe Ricco Renzo.

As part of the Festival, all establishments at the LRI Business Plaza are offering discounts of up to 50 percent until the end of the month.

# A win-win game for the world

**COMMENTARY**

*Cheng Wen-tsang*

FOR ALMOST A DECADE NOW, TAIWAN'S application to participate in the World Health Assembly, the World Health Organization's highest decision-making body, has been rejected year after year, such that the rejection has become sort of an annual ritual. Bearing in mind some recent developments of global import, the international community ought to pause and review the issue more thoroughly this year.

The WHO was established with lofty ideals. Like the International Committee of the Red Cross and Médicins Sans Frontières, it is supposed to transcend national borders and political conflicts when promoting health for all mankind and when offering and extending assistance to all those who are suffering from illness.

The Republic of China (Taiwan) used to be a WHO member. As such, our nation benefited greatly from the organization's help. Malaria, to cite an example, was eradicated in Taiwan during that period, with the help of the WHO. However, following Taiwan's replacement by the People's Republic of China (China) at the United Nations in 1971, Taiwan was forced to leave the WHO. Taiwan has since transformed itself from a mere recipient of WHO assistance into a country in a position to contribute to the international health community. Between 1995 and 2004, the government of Taiwan donated $230 million in humanitarian and medical aid to more than 90 countries. On the other hand, Taiwanese NGOs contributed another $87 million in aid even as they operated health care projects in several countries.

In 1997, representatives from Taiwan's medical community visited the WHO headquarters in Geneva and, for the first time, requested that the organization abide by its constitution and look after the Taiwanese people's right to health.

However, for a decade now, Taiwan's requests for an observer status at the World Health Assembly have been completely ignored. Since its founding, the WHO's member-states have increased from around 50 to 192, among them Iran, Iraq and North Korea. Even the Order of Malta and the Palestine Liberation Organization have been given observer status. But democratic Taiwan, the world's 17th largest economy, remains excluded from this global health village.

A request to join the WHO is entirely legitimate and reasonable for a sovereign state such as Taiwan. According to the WHO Constitution, health is a fundamental right of every human being irrespective of political beliefs. The recent outbreaks of the enterovirus and SARS, which had serious impacts on the lives and health of Taiwan's people, have made it more imperative for Taiwan to seek the WHO's protection and become its member. Due to China's objection, however, most countries of the world have chosen to surrender to political pragmatism and to remain deaf to Taiwan's appeal.

Diseases know no boundaries and are unaffected by political posturing. Taiwan's exclusion from the WHO has prevented Taiwan from contributing to global health initiatives and has made it as well into a missing link in the global epidemic prevention systems. The exclusion is unfair to Taiwan and detrimental to world health.

More and more countries around the world are being affected by the avian flu epidemic, though fortunately, to date, Taiwan has remained free of the disease. Nevertheless, as a transportation hub in the Western Pacific and because of its close interaction with the affected areas, such as China and Southeast Asia, Taiwan is constantly under threat.

But despite the health risk Taiwan faces, the WHO has been reluctant to offer assistance to Taiwan. Earlier this year, blindly following China's "one-China" rhetoric, the WHO even went so far as to assume that Taiwan was an area under China's administration and wrongly declared that the island-nation is an affected area. The false announcement dealt a severe blow to Taiwan's efforts at epidemic control and prevention and demoralized its government and private sector.

Taiwan has no intention to seek confrontation with China. Nevertheless, to safeguard its people's right to health, Taiwan needs to break through China's stubbornness in blocking Taiwan's participation in WHO meetings, activities, early warning network and cooperative programs for epidemic prevention.

With the World Health Assembly about to convene in Geneva, Taiwan calls on the international community to look carefully at the realities of Taiwan's isolation from the global health village and support its participation in the WHO.

The WHO, for its part, needs to modify its over-politicized position on Taiwan's entry into the WHO and to be more responsive to the Taiwanese's right to health. Instead of just being a zero-sum game in the Taiwan Strait, Taiwan's entry into the WHO would then become a win-win situation for all the countries in the world.

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*Cheng Wen-tsang is minister of the Government Information Office, Republic of China (Taiwan).*

# The good and the bad

**YOUNG BLOOD**

*Karen Calilung*

*We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.*—**Ed.**

I WILL BE BRUTALLY HONEST: I'M NOT HAPPY BEING Filipino. Everything seems like a misdeed waiting to happen when it's a Filipino I'm dealing with, and that's what I have to do every day.

I have been driving for one year, but my impatience already rivals that of someone who is on the road from the moment he wakes up. You go straight, keep to your lane, singing with the radio, and then a motorcycle, a car or even a truck cuts you, with just an inch to spare.

Out driving one day, I saw a car being stopped by a police officer for violating the color coding. "Good job," I was about to say to myself, but then the driver rolled down his window, said something to the policeman and was waved off quickly. No cash changed hands, but no license was taken either.

A few kilometers down the road, the same car was pulled over again by another traffic officer. Again, the window was rolled down, and the policeman waved the driver off. All I could do was scratch my head.

Almost all of us make stops at fast-food chains. They are usually jam-packed and noisy. Making errors or forgetting what was ordered is commonplace probably all over the world. But here, the crew people who get it wrong are the ones who are pissed at the customers, and some of them don't even try to hide it. Day after day, I feel my respect for my countrymen slipping away.

One day, my mom and I decided to eat breakfast in the Greenhills area. We finished eating, paid the bill, and left. But when we got home, my mom's face suddenly turned pale with panic. She had left her bag with a big sum of money in it.

The drive back to the restaurant was a tense one, with a thousand negative scenarios popping in our heads. I hoped for the best and prepared for the worst.

When we reached the restaurant, we were greeted by one of the most welcome sights we had ever seen: A waiter smiling in recognition and promptly leading us to the office where the bag was being kept. We were told that they had opened the bag to look for an ID and our contact number or address. They saw what was inside, and still returned it!

I felt very good not only because we got back mom's bag but also because of what it taught me. In times like ours, I would have understood if they took the money. Living is not easy for most of us, and returning that bag was for me an extraordinary demonstration of honesty and character.

When we left the restaurant, a car was speeding toward me, going the wrong way. Moments later, another car gave way for me at the parking ticket booth. The good and the bad, coming one after the other.

It took just one act of kindness for me to believe in my countrymen again. I remember one Bible story where God told a prophet He would save a town if he could find just 10 good people there. The Philippines, I think, has much more than that.

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*Karen Calilung, 21, finished journalism at the Polytechnic University of the Philippines and is currently taking up law.*

# Lamb chops

*Abigail S. Ong*

WHEN AN AUNT AND HER HUSBAND MIGRATED TO Michigan more than 20 years ago, our family kept mum about it. We were very happy when they landed very good jobs (my uncle is a scientist of some sort and my aunt worked her way up the US banking industry). Good for them, my family thought, the States will give them a better future. And when we were little kids, my sister and I anticipated their rare visits, because that meant we'd be getting lots of gummy bears and chocolates and the latest toys.

Then another aunt of mine went to Canada with her family. From the pictures she sent us, we toured their new, big and modern house, with a garden we could never have seen anywhere in Manila.

We were also told that my cousin got cured of his asthma in Canada. My sister and I rejoiced for him, even as we knew we would have to bear the same affliction while we lived in Manila.

My family never seriously thought of emigrating anywhere. And we probably never will. My father, who is a pure Chinese (he doesn't even have an English name) is a very nationalistic individual. He is passionate about staying in the Philippines, "dreaming the impossible dream," and "lighting one candle in his own dark space."

I grew up watching Ninoy Aquino documentaries, reading Ninoy Aquino biographies and editorials, and discussing current events over dinner. While I know that the grass is greener in other parts of the world, I grew up stubbornly believing that my feet should be firmly planted on native ground—even if the brown earth shows signs of famine.

Recently, my Canada-based aunt had a proposal for my sister and me: Go to Canada and work as domestic helpers for two years and then petition for your parents. That's the surest way to have a better future, she said.

To me, that advice came as a shock. I recalled my credentials, starting with my education at the University of the Philippines, my earlier academic awards and the work experience I had chalked up. After all that, was I supposed to end up as a domestic helper just so I could live in Canada?

After my beaten ego cooled down, however, I thought of how hard life can be in this country. I might occasionally enjoy a P100 cup of coffee inside a shop frequented by the elite, but across the street there are scores of vendors darkened by the heat of the sun and bowed by the burden of living who cannot make P100 a day. Then I thought of the many young Filipino professionals—competent, driven, but with their eyes gone dry from looking for a good job that would allow them to help their families. They work all day but rarely get to enjoy the fruits of their labor. They dream about having a car, a house, a healthy and happy family, and a few leisure trips here and there, but will they ever get their wishes?

There are sheep that refuse to put their wooly heads between the fences to get a view of the lusher hills on the other side. Sadly, they usually end up as lamb chops.

---

*Abigail S. Ong, 23, works as a researcher for QTV Channel 11.*

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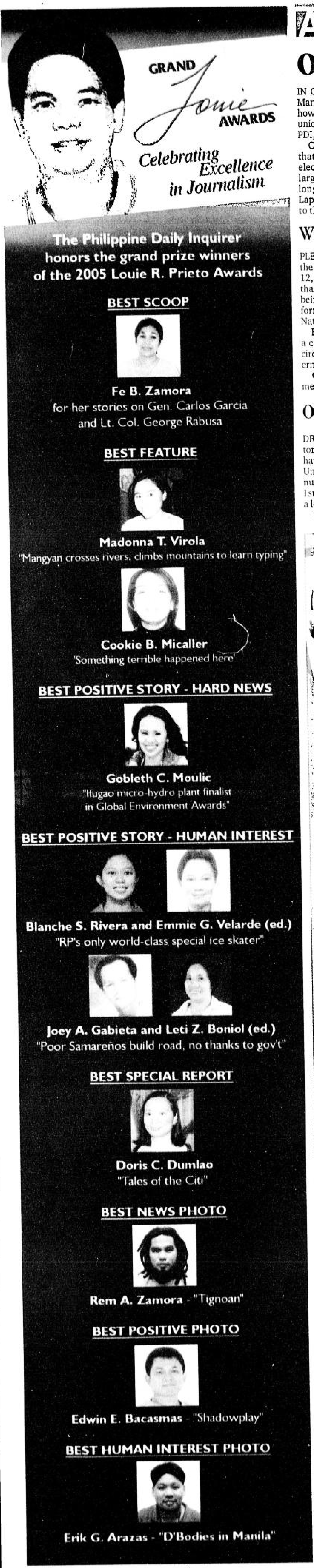
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Erik G. Arazas - "D'Bodies in Manila"

# Outdated views on bicameralism

IN QUOTING JOSE E. ROMERO, Manuel L. Quezon III just showed how outdated his views are. ("A unicameralist on bicameralism," PDI, 5/11/06)

Obviously, Romero's claim that better candidates get to be elected if they are voted by a larger constituency was made long before Jinggoy Estrada, Lito Lapid and Bong Revilla made it to the Senate. His observation on the "limited influence" of money in a national election was made well before Jamby Madrigal and Mar Roxas won their Senate seats.

My beef with the way senators are elected today is not that they are elected by the entire electorate but that they do not have to top the election to gain office. All they have to do is make it to 12th place.

In essence, one doesn't need to prove that he or she is the most qualified person to become a senator. He only has to be adequately famous (or rich). In fact, I dare MLQ III to run for the Senate in 2007. With his name alone, I guarantee him a spot in the top three, just below Kris Aquino and Cory Quirino.

—ROGELIO DIMACULANGAN,
rogeliodimaculangan@yahoo.com

## We need Cha-cha primers to educate our people

PLEASE ALLOW US TO REACT TO the story that came out in the May 12, issue of the INQUIRER alleging that tons of Cha-cha primers were being printed by the Philippine Information Agency (PIA) and the National Printing Office (NPO).

Here in Baguio, I have yet to see a copy of a Cha-cha primer being circulated by an agency of the government.

Granting for the sake of argument that both the PIA and NPO printed those primers, there is absolutely nothing wrong with that because the proposal to amend the Constitution is a program of the Arroyo administration.

It is a matter of obligation for the administration to educate the public about its programs and policies and, therefore, for the PIA and NPO to print those primers as part of their job. No less than the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines has acknowledged the need to educate the people on the issue as it urged the government to undertake a massive information campaign.

Why make an issue out of the printing of those primers when they are just primers and therefore not campaign materials to coerce the people into supporting Cha-cha? Please send those primers to us here in Baguio.

—RAMON GERONIMO,
rcg@yahoo.com

## Opportunities in US for good, intelligent doctors

DR. CZARINAH PAGAY ("The doctor is out," PDI, 4/29/06) should have no difficulty coming to the United States as a doctor, not as a nurse. If she does come as a nurse, I suspect she will not be a nurse for a long time.

Most of the doctors who turned to nursing to seek employment here come with the thought of taking their qualifying exams for residency programs in the United States. The exams are expensive, but as soon as the doctors start making money as nurses, they take the qualifying exams and pass with little difficulty.

Residency programs are available for good doctors from the Philippines and elsewhere, and Pagay appears to be an intelligent one.

—NAPOLEON S. MAMINTA, M.D.,
nsmamintamd@yahoo.com

LETTERS PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

## Contraceptives: not the only way

AMANDO DORONILA AUTOMAtically assumes that a drop in the population growth rate is due to contraception. This reflects a certain attitude toward human behavior: that only through contraceptives can people regulate the size of their family. ("A silent rebellion against the Church," PDI, 5/12/06)

Unlike coercive government population programs, the Church recognizes the right of a couple to determine the size of their family. What the Church opposes is the use of artificial methods of birth control, many of which ignore sex's vital, life-generating function and stem from the objective of reducing sex to mere pleasure. To do this is to demean something truly awesome—and this has clearly led to many undesirable social outcomes.

This is what the Church is saying. It is a message that is supposed to remind us of our dignity as human beings—a message that is being drowned in the cacophony of materialism and sensualism.

—MICHAEL MAPA,
mikemapa@yahoo.com

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Editor Jun Bandayrel
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# German educates through shock, awe

**By Hazel P. Villa**
*Iloilo City*

WHILE MOST PEOPLE adorn their houses with huge jars or ornamental plants, a German who has lived in Iloilo City for 31 years decorate his with a hair-raising 25-foot stuffed anaconda coiled on a piece of dried wood.

Another stuffed animal—a reddish brown, hairy, barrel-shaped and beady-eyed wolly tapir (*Tapirus pinchaque*)—is on the second floor of his house at 113 Seminario St. in Jaro District.

The house owner is Martin Stummer, a 66-year-old world traveler and former adventure tour operator who had lived in the Amazon for nine years.

He said the stuffed animals were on display because people these days needed to be shocked into appreciating the importance of preserving the environment and the wildlife living in it.

"My idea was to open a small museum for educational purposes and give scientific explanation for these stuffed animals, especially because children have to be motivated to fight for nature and the kingdom of plants and animals which are so endangered in the Philippines," said Stummer.

The mere question of where the stuffed animals came from sets off the rotund native of Bavaria, Germany into a rousing lecture on the importance of preserving the habitats of wildlife, allaying concerns that the stuffed animals were for educational purposes and not caught for game.

The anaconda, Stummer said, was a gift from friends—members of the Shuar tribe of the Amazon jungle who killed the big-bellied snake on suspicion that it swallowed one of their children.

The mountain tapir, an endangered species that looks like a cross between an oversized hog and an anteater, was a remnant of his work for zoological societies in Europe and the United States.

Stummer then segues into an impassioned defense of Philippine forests.

**GERMAN** adventurer Martin Stummer poses with a stuffed South American Monkey Eating Eagle with a stuffed monkey caught in its claws at his home in Jaro district.

PHOTOS BY HAZEL P. VILLA

## Destruction

The German pointed out that from his first visit to the country in 1975 up to his semi-retirement three years ago, the forests had been diminished to dangerous levels.

"In 1975 onwards, anywhere in the remote areas, land or sea, I saw only destruction. The criminal loggers, czars and cronies under Ferdinand Marcos massively destroyed the remaining forests," said Stummer.

"The Church-obedient Filipinos who thought they had a mandate from God to produce children by the dozens had these children ending up as *kaingineros* (slash-and-burn farmers) penetrating through the logging trails and into the forests to complete the destruction of the cronies of Marcos."

Stummer, who used to operate Nagarao Island Resort before encountering marriage problems with his Ilongga wife two years ago, leafed through pictures of the forests and logging operations while conducting adventure tours in the Sierra Madre and Surigao del Sur in the 1970s and 1980s.

He had visited Palawan more than 25 times until the late 1990s and claimed to see logging tracks moving deeper and deeper into the forests.

"There are no more substantial forests in Cebu, Leyte and Bohol, whose Chocolate Hills have been denuded long before I came to the Philippines," said Stummer.

He added that when he first came to the country in 1975 to check out its possibilities as an adventure tour destination, he was pleasantly surprised by the openhearted hospitality of the Filipinos but "shocked at the state of the environment."

## Change of heart

Stummer's reaction was understandable. He was only 23 when he lived in South America for nine years from 1963 to 1972 and was used to the untouched and lush vegetation of the Amazon jungle.

He was also basking in the recognition of being the first to bring wooly tapirs to be kept in a European zoo, specifically the Frankfurt Zoo on March 14, 1968.

The record of this feat of bringing a male and female tapir captured in Ecuador, south of the Cotopaxi Volcano, is in a yellowed cutout of the International ZooNews dated May 1968, Vol. 15, No. 2.

The stuffed animals in Stummer's house are also testimony to his change of heart when it comes to animal conservation.

When in his late 20s and seeing the Amazon tribes catching the tapirs, monkeys, wild boars and other wildlife for game or for food, he got in touch with directors of zoological gardens who suggested that it would be in the interest of rare species to collect pairs of males and females and ship them to their premises for study and breeding.

The scientists reasoned out that if these animals would become extinct in their original habitat, there would be surviving species in the zoological gardens.

"I soon realized in my later years that this concept of international scientists operating zoological gardens was wrong," said Stummer.

"It is not possible to release the offspring of animals raised in captivity because they have lost their ability to survive. I believe that you can only save rare animals if you protect their environment," he added.

He lamented that with the rate Philippine forests were going, the Philippine Monkey Eating Eagle in Mindanao would soon become extinct because its forest habitat was shrinking due to human abuses.

## Saving the forest

A staunch critic of any Philippine administration that does not strongly implement environmental laws, Stummer offers three approaches to preserve Philippine forests.

First, the government should be free from corruption and have an ironfist in implementing existing environmental laws and "create much tougher penalties for violators and infuse tens of billions of pesos to facilitate the implementation of these laws with the Armed Forces of the Philippines using its facilities to apprehend illegal loggers, and polluters of the sea."

"If the political will fades, I would suggest that we have to go to the roots of the problem by prioritizing environmental issues in all school levels and make environment a core issue in the curriculum," said Stummer, explaining his second approach.

At the risk of declaring "environmental bankruptcy of the nation," he said it was time to cry for help from environmental groups abroad and request them to come to the aid of the Philippines with moral and financial support. This is his third approach.

Stummer could go on and on about ways to save the Philippine environment but would momentarily stop when asked about the other stuffed animals in his living quarters, such as the South American Monkey Eating Eagle that he got dead from a hunter in 1969.

He also showed off the preserved skin of a jaguar encased in plastic which, he said, was a gift from a certain Chief Eugenio of the Cofan tribe in 1971 when he invited Stummer to be the godfather of his newly born child.

Members of the Cofan tribe shot jaguars to get the cats' teeth, which they use as decorative necklaces, a sample of which Stummer also displays together with many other such necklaces made from the teeth of other animals.

Elsewhere at Stummer's house are posters of endangered Philippine species, photos of his trips to the Amazon, Papua New Guinea, the Trobriand Islands, Sierra Madre and other exotic places in the world.

The common thread in these pictures and memorabilia is man in relation to his environment.

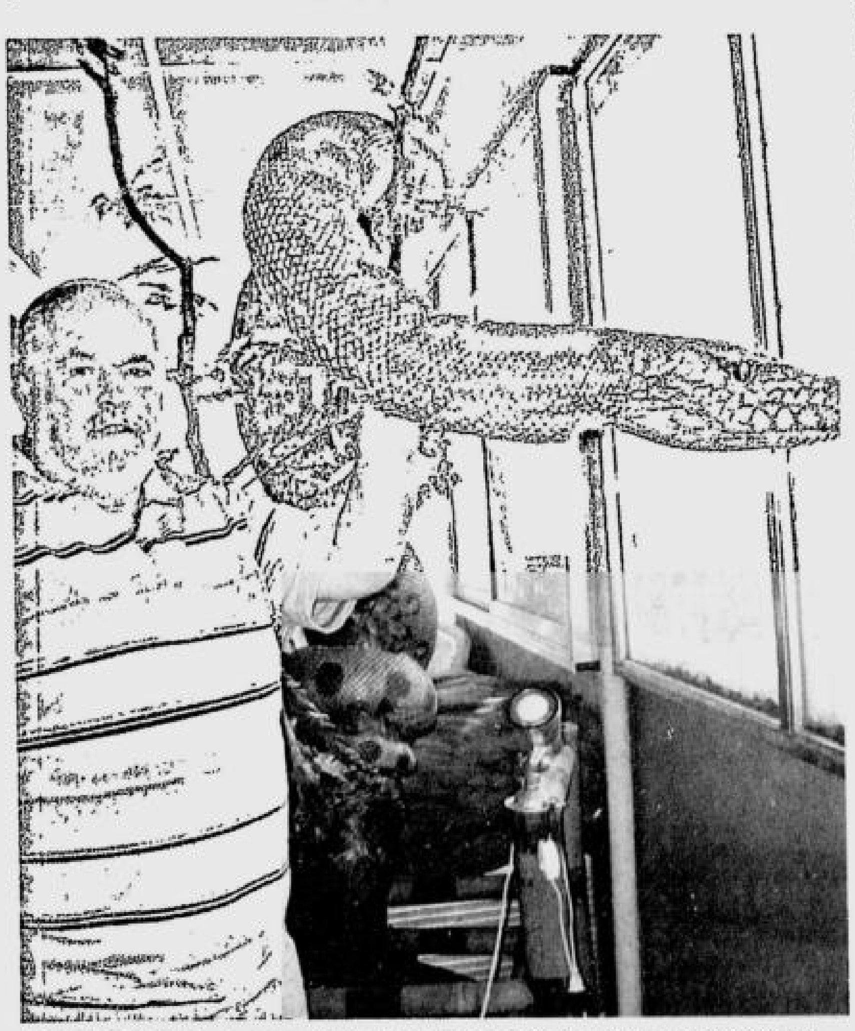
While patrons of a restaurant on the ground floor, his close friends and classmates of his three sons have seen the "mini-wildlife museum," the semi-retired adventure tour operator and environmentalist said visits had been cut off for the moment as he had to put his personal affairs in order.

He said his environmental work on Nagarao Island, as well as other advocacies, had to be temporarily placed on the sidelines. He spends much time in court, claiming that his attempts to separate from his wife is putting his life in danger.

A picture of a shrunken human head catches this writer's fancy. Stummer then went off to explain lengthily but this time about the cultural peculiarities of the Shuar tribe whose forefathers were feared headhunters who chopped off the heads of their enemies and reduced them to shrunken pieces.

In the same breath, he explained the connection between Shuar culture and the Amazon environment.

No matter how much the topic had changed, the nature lover brought back one's attention to the environment by shocking one with some other preserved thing or a ghastly picture, or awe one with blown-up images of stunning flora and majestic animals from his many adventures.



A 25-FOOT stuffed anaconda from the Amazon is one of the more startling animals in Stummer's "mini museum of wildlife."

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- PLENARY SESSION 1: THE PHILIPPINE ECONOMIC LANDSCAPE. WHAT THE NUMBERS REALLY MEAN TO BUSINESS
- LUNCHEON TOPIC: GOVERNMENT INITIATIVES TO BOOST PHILIPPINE BUSINESS
- PANEL DISCUSSION 1: HOMEGROWN STRATEGIES FOR BEATING THE ODDS AND TAKING THE LEAD
- PLENARY SESSION 2: HOW BIG BUSINESSES CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN SOCIETY
- RE-LAUNCHING OF ECOP'S RECOGNITION OF CHILD-FRIENDLY FIRMS PROGRAM
- PANEL DISCUSSION 2: TALENT MANAGEMENT: WIN SOME, LOSE SOME... DELIBERATELY

23 May 2006 DAY 2

- PLENARY SESSION 3: SURVIVAL TECHNIQUES, TOOLS & STRATEGIES THAT WORK
  - Appreciative Inquiry
  - Balanced Scorecard
  - Contemporary Working: New World of Work
- PLENARY SESSION 4: LABOR POLICY FOR PHILIPPINE COMPETITIVENESS
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# Pact with MNLF lacking, says OIC

COTABATO CITY—THE PEACE AGREEMENT BEtween the government and the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) has not been implemented in full, according to the head of a team sent by the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) to the country.

The OIC brokered the peace agreement, which the Ramos administration and MNLF chair Nur Misuari signed in 1996. This prescribed the establishment of an expanded Moro region, the integration of MNLF combatants into the military and the police and assistance to rehabilitate war-torn areas in Mindanao, among others.

The expansion of the Moro region failed after a plebiscite was held in August 2001. Only five provinces and one city voted to be included in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) instead of the envisioned 14 provinces and nine cities.

"The treaty has not been fully implemented," Ambassador Sayed Kassan El-Masry told government and MNLF officials during dinner hosted by ARMM Gov. Zaldy Ampatuan on Thursday evening.

But El-Masry quickly pointed out that both the government and the MNLF failed to come up with mechanisms for the implementation of all the provisions of the peace agreement.

He did not specify which provisions were not implemented but added the matter should be tackled during the RP-MNLF-OIC tripartite meeting to be held in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia in July.

"We have to sit down and resolve how to implement the accord fully," El-Masry said.

Earlier, MNLF secretary general Muslimin Sema gave a rating of four to the implementation of the agreement on a scale of 1-10.

"I would like to maintain our position that the peace agreement has not been implemented religiously," Sema said in a radio interview here.

National peace adviser Jesus Dureza told the visiting OIC envoys that the Arroyo administration is determined to address the root causes of the peace and order problems in Mindanao.

He said the country's bid for an observer status in the OIC would galvanize the government's efforts to help war-torn communities in Mindanao.

El-Masry declined to comment on the Philippines bid for an observer seat in the influential organization.

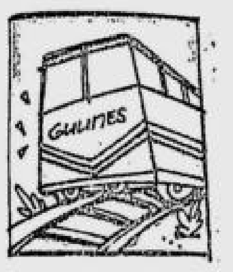
The MNLF, led by Nur Misuari, continues to represent Philippine Muslims in the 57-nation pan-Islamic grouping that counts oil-rich countries Saudi Arabia, Iran, Iraq, and Indonesia as members.

In Panamao, Sulu, acting Armed Forces chief Lt. Gen. Antonio Romero approved the suspension of military operation (Somo) to allow MNLF leaders to attend the scheduled consultation with the OIC team today.

Among those expected to show up is Ustadz Habier Malik, who figured in two of the bloodiest clashes in the island-province in 2005. *Edwin Fernandez and Julie Alipala and Jeoffrey Maitem, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

## ROUNDUP

### Trams in Benguet eyed



BAGUIO CITY—The Department of Agrarian Reform has proposed the establishment of tramlines in vegetable-producing towns in Benguet as an alternative to farm-to-market roads. DAR Cordillera director Renato Navata said DAR has identified the farming towns of Atok, Mankayan and Kibungan as sites for the tramlines. He said the agency has proposed the project to the National Economic Development Authority because farm-to-market roads could not be built in many vegetable-producing areas in the Cordillera due to the region's rugged terrain. The tramline, with a proposed budget of P43 million, would help farmers transport their produce faster, he said.

*Desiree Caluza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

### Livestock production down

LEGAZPI CITY—Livestock production in Albay declined by at least 4 percent in the first quarter this year with livestock farmers concerned over the lack of seed capital. Provincial veterinarian Jose Losa Jr. debunked bird flu as a cause of the decline saying "everything has been looked into to ensure a bird-flu-free area." He noted, however, a potential growth in the industry in terms of land, technology and human resources. Since 2004, there has been an annual increase of 25 percent or 66,519 heads of swine and poultry shipped out of Albay.

*Edgar Alejo, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

### Organic fertilizer test

CITY OF CALAPAN—Ten pilot areas in the parishes of San Lorenzo and Pinamalayan in Oriental Mindoro have started producing bio-organic fertilizer using locally produced indigenous microorganism. The Lingkod Buhay Program under the Hapag ng Pamilyang Mindoreño of the Diocesan Commission on Service-Apostol provides technical assistance.

*Madonna Virola, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

### Calapan dike fixed, says gov

BUTI NA LANG!

CITY OF CALAPAN—The 1.4-kilometer protection dike and rechanneling of Bucayao River have been completed by the provincial government, according to Oriental Mindoro Gov. Arnan Panaligan during a press conference. The Department of Budget and Management has also released since January 15 percent, or P9 million, for the gabion armoring of the 2-km dike in Villa Cerveza, Victoria town, 640 meters of which had been finished, he said. "Without these undertakings, Calapan could have been submerged during Typhoon "Caloy" because flood waters were 1.5 meter higher than the December 2005 flooding. The dike was meant to divert the water flow from Ibulo and Aglubang rivers to Bucayao River in Calapan.

*Madonna Virola, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

### Mangyan grading system

SAN JOSE, Occidental Mindoro—Jodilyn Lumawig, 15, a Taubuhid Mangyan graduate of Paaralang Angkop sa Katutubong Kultura (Pamana Ka) in the mountainous Barangay Danlog, passed the Department of Education's alternative learning test. This qualifies her for college studies after three years of lessons at Pamana Ka. "This is a validation of our non-graded system where we count not the number of years spent in school but the mastery of skills expected to be achieved in various learning areas," said Sr. Aristea Bautista, FMM, directress of Pamana Ka. DepEd earlier recognized the school for its culture and community-based curriculum.

*Madonna Virola, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

### Japanese scholarship desks

THE JAPAN Information and Cultural Center (JICC) of the Embassy of Japan will open the Japanese Government Scholarship Inquiry Desk at Japan's consular offices in Davao on May 23 from 9 a.m. to noon and 2-4:30 p.m. at the Mindanao International College in Davao City. Free counseling services will be offered at the Inquiry Desk to help applicants select scholarship categories and prepare for scholarship-related exams and interviews. For details, call (032) 231-7321 or 22 (Cebu); (082) 233-0013 (Davao); (02) 551-5710 local 2315 and 2317 (Pasay City).

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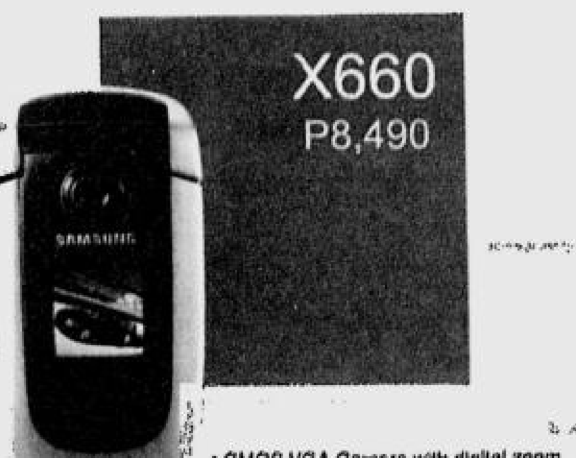

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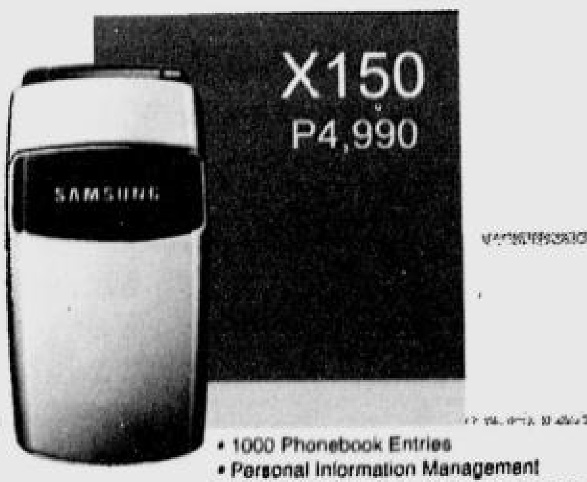

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# Villagers flee as MILF gunmen lay claim to land

MIDSAYAP, NORTH COTABATO—With their farm animals, belongings and children in tow, dozens of families moved out of their homes when gunmen belonging to the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) stormed Barangays Rangaban and Baliki here.

Mayor Romeo Araña said he already mobilized social and health workers to attend to the needs of the evacuees.

Araña said the villagers started to move out on May 11 when about 60 MILF rebels occupied Baliki and fired indiscriminately. The rebels moved to nearby Rangaban.

Araña said the villagers did not want to be caught in the crossfire if the military comes in.

Supt. Chino Mamburam, Midsayap police chief, said they tried to enter the village but they were fired upon.

"We cannot fire back because of the existing ceasefire agreement. So, we have to withdraw," he said.

The government and the rebel group have signed a truce in 2001 as international efforts to resolve the last of the serious Moro rebellion stepped up.

The ceasefire is being monitored by the Malaysian-led International Monitoring Team (IMT), a body organized by the Organization of the Islamic Conference.

Mamburam said members of the IMT have already visited Rangaban and, as soon as they left, the rebels started firing their guns again.

He said the police were waiting for the recommendation of the truce monitoring team to solve the problem, which has been traced to a land conflict.

A resident said the rebels were claiming a 40-hectare titled land in Baliki as their ancestral domain.

In Matanog, Maguindanao, at least 21 MILF members yielded to authorities claiming they grew tired of waging war against the government.

Bataga Tamamay, alias Commander Bataga, an MILF field commander operating in Banisilan, North Cotabato, said the dream of living a peaceful life and becoming productive citizen prompted them to surrender.

"Commander Bataga's decision was a noble one," Brig. Gen. Eduardo Gurrea, chief of the Army's 603rd Infantry Brigade, said.

Bataga and his men turned over firearms in exchange for financial assistance under the government's Balik-Baril program.

Earlier, the Armed Forces suspended military operations against so-called renegades of the MILF out of respect for the arrival of a team from the Organization of the Islamic Conference that was checking the implementation of the 1996 peace agreement between the Moro National Liberation Front and the government.

The OIC team flew to Cotabato City Thursday and has started its task of assessing the implementation of the 1996 peace agreement between the government and the MNLF.

Jesus Dureza, national peace adviser, said the team had visited MNLF chair Nur Misuari before they flew to Mindanao. It was not clear what they talked about.

Misuari, who is facing rebellion charges following the bloody uprising of his followers in Sulu and Zamboanga a couple of years ago, has been staying in New Manila, Quezon City after a local court granted his request for an extended furlough.

Dureza said he was expecting the OIC team to find the implementation of the accord in order.

But Cotabato City Mayor Muslimin Sema, MNLF secretary general, gave a rating of four to the implementation of the agreement based on a scale of 1-10. *Julie Alipala, Charlie Señase, Edwin Fernandez and Jeoffrey Maitem, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

**RESIDENTS** of a land owned by the Davao Medical Center start moving out their belongings as their homes were demolished after they lost their battle in court.

DENNIS JAY SANTOS/PDI MINDANAO BUREAU

# 100 families evicted from Davao hospital property

DAVAO CITY—AT LEAST 100 families living on land owned by the Davao Medical Center (DMC) in Bajada District have been evicted following a long-running legal battle with the government.

On Friday, a demolition team from the city engineer's office started tearing down the houses and small eateries inside the land, which is adjacent to the DMC, amid protests from the occupants.

Many of those displaced by the demolition have been living in the area for more than 20 years already.

The DMC management had long wanted to evict the occupants and has actually managed to secure a demolition order from the court last year.

However, the occupants applied for a temporary restraining order (TRO) arguing they should not be abruptly removed from the area and should be given ample time to find a relocation site. Judge Silverio Mandalupe of the Municipal Trial Court, Branch 3 issued the TRO in January last year.

### Relocation site

Court Sheriff Philip Betil said it has been over a year now since the occupants asked for a TRO but they did not find a relocation site.

The city government earlier found a relocation site in Barangay Balite, also in Buhangin District.

But some councilors were opposed to the deal because it was allegedly too expensive for the city government.

This prompted Mayor Rodrigo Duterte to scrap the deal because of what he said was "too much politics."

Recently, the City Housing Office announced it has found another site in Tigatto District but the DMC occupants rejected the offer.

### No longer interested

Cesar Dataya, CHO chief, said the DMC occupants told his men last week they were no longer interested.

Lenida Alas, who represents the occupants, said they filed a motion for reconsideration when the TRO expired but the decision did not come on time.

She also said they were ready to leave the place provided that the DMC management could give them a valid reason why they were being removed.

Alas said abruptly leaving the area would mean the loss of livelihood for most of them.

### Demolition

"I've been here for the past 26 years and I have sent my children to school through my small eatery," she said as the demolition team began dismantling the structures.

"We are ready to give this back to the DMC because this lot is not ours, but give us due process," Dwina Flores, another occupant who lived in the area for the past 20 years already, said.

Dr. Gerardo Cunanan, DMC chief, declined to comment on the demolition. *Dennis Jay Santos, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

# Ilocos execs back Charter change bid

LAOAG CITY—ADVOCATES OF the move to amend the 1987 Constitution have found support from Ilocos Norte mayors, vice mayors and councilors who attended an orientation and consultation at the provincial capitol auditorium on Wednesday.

The Ilocos consultation was convened as the Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines (Ulap) ended its nationwide campaign to push Charter changes.

The officials who attended the event were led by Vice Gov. Windell Chua, Sarrat Mayor Corazon Abad, also president of the Ilocos Norte Mayors' League, and Mayors Michael Fariñas (Laoag City), Bonifacio Clemente (Paoay) and Anunciacion Pagdilao (Pinili).

Other mayors sent their representatives.

"Your presence indicates your concern to our country while [your support] will help give shape to the country's future," Abad said as she welcomed around 100 participants, mostly councilors and local government workers from the 22 towns and this capital city.

Organizers focused the discussions on the need for constitutional reform, peoples' initiative and the strength of the parliamentary form of government.

"Our country is divided [on the Cha-cha issue] and it is timely that local government sectors must be involved in the process so that they may have a full grasp of the issue," Chua said.

He said he was supporting moves to amend the Constitution.

"But I do not favor the process in doing it because it is being railroaded. It is up to us to enlighten our [constituents] about key issues," he said.

The Malacañang-backed Charter change hopes to gather support by initiating a signature drive under the peoples' initiative mode of amending the 1987 Constitution. *Cristina Arzadon, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

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Bamboo huts are displayed near a public market in San Carlos City, Pangasinan. The huts are being sold from P18,000 to P35,000 each.

ZAMBRANO/PDI NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU

# Disaster preparedness tops agenda of workshops, training in S. Leyte

**By Vicente S. Labro**
*PDI Visayas Bureau*

TACLOBAN CITY—AS THE RAINY season arrives, several disaster preparedness training and workshops are to be separately held in disaster-prone Southern Leyte.

On Sunday, a 15-day disaster preparedness training will start in Libagon town, Southern Leyte, which will be participated in by 10 persons each from the disaster-prone towns of Liloan, Pintuyan, San Francisco and San Ricardo on Panaon Island. The training is sponsored by Plan Philippines that is based in Sogod town.

It can be recalled that on Dec. 19, 2003, landslides occurred in Liloan, San Francisco and San Ricardo towns, killing around 150 people.

On May 25 to 26 this year, another disaster preparedness training that will focus on digitized map readings particularly on geohazard areas will also be held in the province, sponsored by the Japan International Cooperation Agency and in coordination with the Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB).

The Provincial Disaster Coordinating Council (PDCC), headed by Southern Leyte Gov. Rosette Lerias, has yet to identify the venue and participants of this two-day training, according to the Philippine Information Agency based in Maasin City.

On June 13 to 15, a Community-based Disaster Management Training would be conducted in Bontoc town, to be participated in by at least three persons from each of the town's barangays.

Among those to be discussed in this three-day training are disaster cycle, public awareness, hydrological hazard, and evacuation management.

A workshop on participatory rural appraisal that include hazard mapping, Venn diagram and the seasonal calendar would also be held.

According to PIA-Maasin, these training programs were scheduled by the PDCC in coordination with the Provincial Disaster Management Office, which is tasked with training disaster preparedness management and is composed of seven men who are experts in swimming, rappelling, first aid, among other disaster preparedness skills.

When tropical storm "Caloy" hit Eastern Visayas last week, a landslide isolated five barangays in Sogod, Southern Leyte. Four other barangays in Sogod town also became isolated due to a flood in the area.

A rapid geohazard assessment survey conducted recently by the MGB in Southern Leyte showed that most of the province's 497 barangays were susceptible to floods and landslides.

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|---|---|---|---|---|
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| 3) | Milagros Cadayon | Unknown | Daniel E. Baluyut<br>SS#03-3397531-0 | April 11, 2006 |
| 4) | Caridad Bueno | Unknown | Julito Bueno<br>SS#06-0492533-2 | October 3, 2001 |
| 5) | Lolita Canumay<br>Henry Jr. | 598 G.A. Pascual St., Navotas, M.M. | Henry A. Canumay<br>SS#03-5063660-3 | October 18, 2005 |
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| 7) | Juliana, Jimmy &<br>Feliciano Cenizal II | Unknown | Roberto C. Cenizal<br>SS#03-1059886-2 | March 18, 2003 |
| 8) | Alice Delfino | Makati, MM | Antonio G. Ceres<br>SS#03-3640904-5 | July 31, 2003 |
| 9) | Avelina Ramirez | Compostela, Comval Province | Eduardo Dagatan<br>SS#09-0438103-2 | October 30, 2005 |
| 10) | Eduardo E. Panganiban | 197 B Mariano St., Sta. Ana, San Mateo, Rizal | Maria Dalawampo<br>SS#03-3247060-9 | February 12, 2006 |
| 11) | Myrna Dichoso Dalisay | 175 Sta. Filomena, San Pablo City, Laguna | Sesinando Emiano Dalisay<br>SS#03-2679361-9 | January 1, 2006 |
| 12) | Rolando F. Dejesa | Unknown | Vivian C. Dejesa<br>SS#03-7011497-2 | March 7, 2006 |
| 13) | Corazon Eugenio | Unknown | Eduardo R. Eugenio Jr<br>SS#03-4843376-6 | March 13, 2006 |
| 14) | Cecilia Adraino Galabo | Unknown | Adriano Galabo<br>SS#03-1749240-8 | July 19, 2005 |
| 15) | Juanillo Iligan | Unknown | Helen Iligan<br>SS#07-1285071-3 | August 22, 2005 |
| 16) | Luz Jagonase<br>Avios Jagonase<br>Eduardo Jagonase<br>Agnes Jagonase | Unknown | Rolando Jagonase<br>SS#03-2836583-8 | November 7, 2002 |
| 17) | Villa Fe Rances Tabarina | Unknown | Cezar E. Jardin<br>SS#04-1189029-4 | February 26, 2005 |
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| 19) | Luz Madamca | Sta Cruz, Pamplona, Cagayan | Francisco Madamca<br>SS#01-0476526-7 | June 11, 2001 |
| 20) | Ernesto Dematera | Unknown | Elena Mamila<br>SS#03-2902920-9 | February 4, 2005 |
| 21 | Nancy A. Fuertes | Fernandez Ave., Dagupan City | Reynaldo Manano<br>SS#03-1384756-5 | February 11, 1999 |
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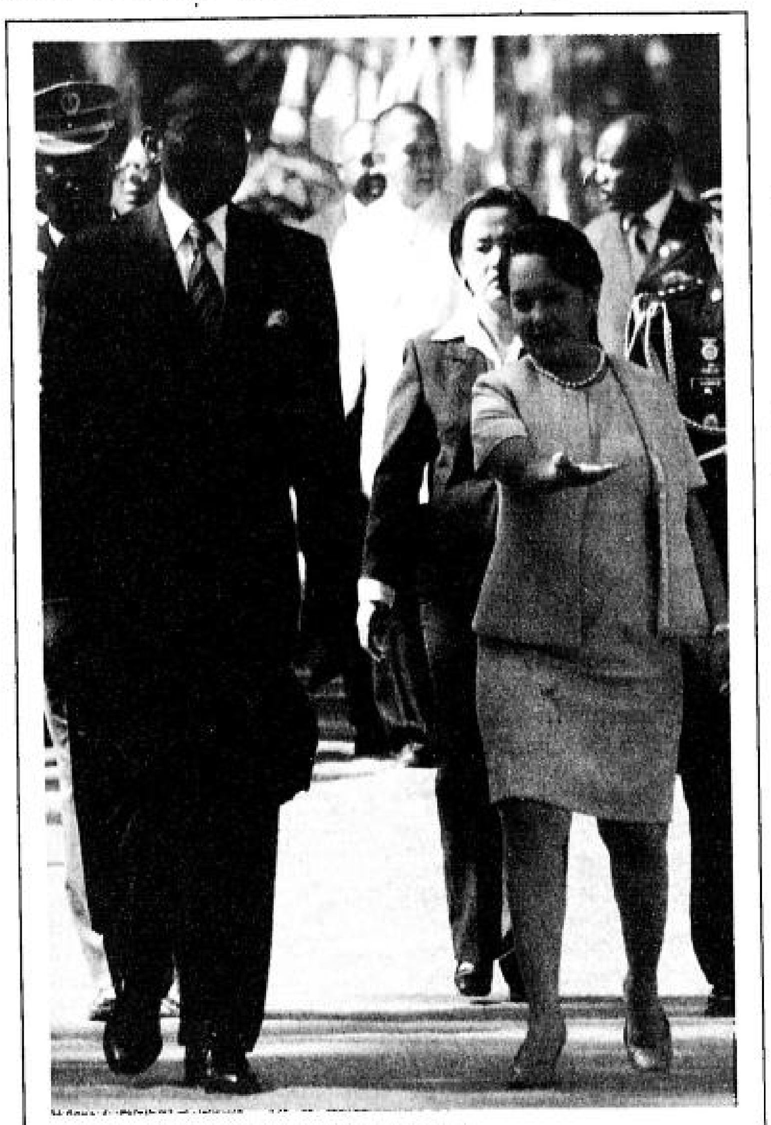
| 25) | Evangeline San Juan | Unknown | Felipe P. San Juan<br>SS#03-3771783-3 | April 17, 2005 |
| 26) | Jimmy Sasi | Unknown | Mauricio Sasi<br>SS#07-0978171-4 | August 19, 2005 |
| 27) | Juanito Vergara Tiamzon | Unknown | Aris C. Tiamson<br>SS#33-2592080-2 | February 28, 2006 |
| 28) | Rodolfo Tamang<br>Rosalyn Tamang | Baculud, Ilagan, Isabela | Marcelina B. Tamang<br>SS#01-0453121-3 | August 20, 2004 |
| 29) | Nimfa Tupaz | Unknown | Bernabe Tupaz<br>SS#03-2441253-6 | December 24, 1994 |

- Nothing Follows -

(PDI – May 20, 2006)



**STATE VISITOR FROM AFRICA**
President Macapagal-Arroyo welcomes to Malacañang the president of Equatorial Guinea, Teodoro Obiang Nguema Mbasogo, on Friday. The African leader is here on a four-day state visit. The two leaders later witnessed the signing of three agreements on energy and economic cooperation between the two countries. The oil-rich Central African nation is host to an estimated 3,000 Filipino overseas contract workers. LYN RILLON

# 'Da Vinci' murder mystery makes killing on opening day

By Bayani San Diego Jr.
*Entertainment*

IN SPITE OF MIXED REVIEWS from foreign critics, the controversial Hollywood murder mystery "The Da Vinci Code" made a killing at the local box office on its opening day.

As of 3 p.m. last Thursday, "Da Vinci" posted P3 million at the tills.

By the end of the day, it earned "P11.6 million in Mega Manila," according to an official statement sent by Columbia Pictures, the Philippine office of Sony Pictures Releasing, the distributor of "Da Vinci."

Mega Manila figures included theaters in major cities of neighboring provinces like Cavite and Pampanga, according to a studio source.

## Beats MI-3 opening day

Nationwide, the film's first-day earnings in 116 theaters totaled P14.11 million, "the biggest non-weekend opening this year," according to Victor R. Cabrera, general manager of Columbia Pictures. "Da Vinci" beat the opening-day record set by the Tom Cruise-starrer "Mission: Impossible III" (only P10.1 million), although it was rated PG-13.

Columbia also asserted that "Da Vinci" broke three other records: the all-time highest opening day for an R-18 film in the Philippines; the biggest opening day for a Tom Hanks movie; and the second biggest opening day for a Columbia movie. The biggest was "Spiderman 2" with P23.1 million, and in third place was "Spiderman" with P9.72 million.

"It's a tremendous turnout and we couldn't be happier," Cabrera said in the same statement. "We'd like to thank the Filipino audience for keeping an open mind and theater exhibitors for standing by us."

## Not in SM malls

SM malls, however, were not among the local cineplexes that showed "Da Vinci," as a result of the R-18 rating that the film had received from the Movie and Television Review and Classification Board (MTRCB) last Tuesday.

SM malls has a corporate policy not to show movies in their cinemas with R-18 or "For Adults Only" rating.

The Columbia statement acknowledged that SM comprises "40 percent of the country's cinemas."

An industry source said the distributor could have doubled its earnings if the movie had been shown in SM cinemas.

As a result of SM's ban on R-18 films, Columbia added more theaters in other cineplexes: "Gateway is showing it in eight of its 10 cinemas; Robinsons Place Manila in four; Glorietta in six; Rockwell Powerplant in five; and Shangri-La in four... The result was that participating theaters cashed in with bigger slices of the film's total box-office pie," Cabrera pointed out.

## Gateway highest gross

According to the statement, Gateway received the highest opening-day grosses with P1.16 million; followed by Robinsons Place Manila with P985,067; Glorietta IV, P967,830; Robinsons Galleria, P945,003; Rockwell Powerplant, P772,576; Shangri-La, P643,041; Festival Mall, 602,467; Greenbelt III, P586,436; and Eastwood, P426,008.

Ric Camaligan, first vice president of SM Leisure Inc., which operates SM Cinemas, told the INQUIRER in a phone interview yesterday that SM did not regret its decision not to screen "Da Vinci."

"We cannot change our policy just because one controversial movie made money," Camaligan explained. "I'm hesitant to look at the financial angle [that SM malls may lose prospective business from people who are watching 'Da Vinci'] because we had already considered that aspect when we made our decision."

## Controversy made it a hit

Camaligan observed that the "controversy was a big factor in the film's success" and he added that he wouldn't be surprised if "the movie's producer actually capitalized on the controversy."

Macie Imperial, director for Acquisitions and Marketing of Sky Films, concurred: "The controversy definitely helped promote the movie. It was an inexpensive way to publicize the movie. It was its [own] press release. It's human nature. The more you prevent people from watching it; the more they'd become curious and watch it."

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WHAT'S INSIDE

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■ 4 hurt as car rams into payloader /A20
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# Suspect in Parañaque twin murders nabbed

By Jocelyn R. Uy

THE POLICE ARRESTED ON Thursday the suspect in the killing of a 9-year-old girl and her grandmother in Parañaque City earlier this week.

The suspect turned out to be the son of one of the victims. Gilbert Banzuela was arrested in the house of his cousin, Eric Talon, in Dagupan City, Pangasinan.

Banzuela is the son of 54-year-old Zenaida, whose body was found with her nine-year-old niece, Geleen, inside their house at 17 President Quezon St., Monte Villa de Monsod in Barangay Sun Valley, Parañaque City, on Monday. But Banzuela, who lived in the same house, was nowhere to be found, which made the police believe that he was the primary suspect.

Talon called up the police after Banzuela reportedly admitted to him that he had killed his mother and niece, Parañaque police chief Ronald Estilles told the INQUIRER yesterday.

Estilles added that he immediately sent a team to Dagupan after receiving a call the other day from the city police chief, Supt. Ed Basbas, to take Banzuela into custody.

The suspect was brought back to Parañaque at 2 a.m. yesterday.

During questioning, Banzuela said he killed his mother when she refused to give him money.

"He said he also got fed up because his mother always locked him up in their garage," Estilles said, quoting Banzuela.

A follow-up investigation disclosed that Banzuela allegedly hit his mother with a metal pipe when she came to his room to serve his food at lunchtime on Saturday.

## Eyewitness

"Banzuela said he killed his niece because she saw what he did to his mother," Estilles added.

Initial reports said the suspect was suffering from a mental disorder because of a drug addiction problem. But the suspect seemed normal, according to Estilles. The girl's mother, Grace, also claimed that her brother was not suffering from a mental disorder

"If he was mentally sick, he wouldn't have thought of cleaning up the mess at the crime scene," he said. The police, however, have yet to recover the pipe that the suspect allegedly used to kill the two victims.

Two counts of murder will be filed against Banzuela in the city prosecutor's office.

# German trader arrested for duping online shoppers

## Goods paid for but never delivered

By Margaux C. Ortiz

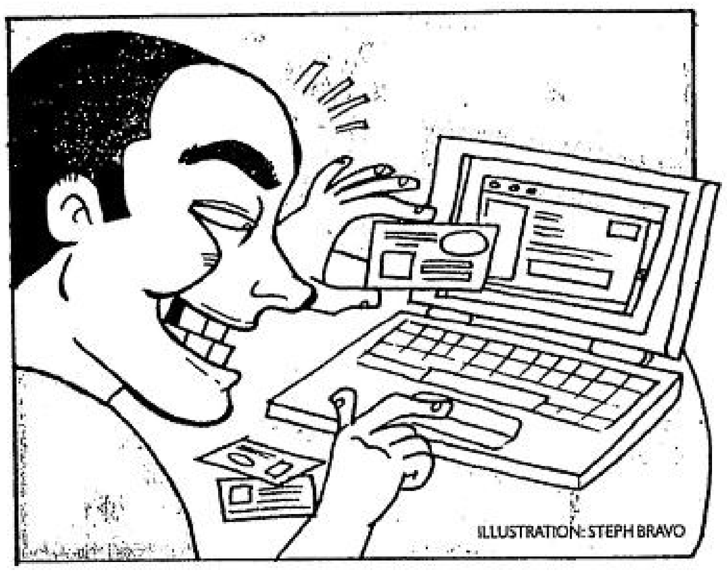


ILLUSTRATION: STEPH BRAVO

A GERMAN BUSINESSMAN wanted in his country for 67 counts of large-scale money fraud, was arrested by agents of the National Bureau of Investigation in Dasmariñas, Cavite, last Wednesday for allegedly duping European clients using an Internet auction website.

Viktor Graff Kolvenbach, 47, a native of Aix-la-Chappelle, Germany, is now detained at the NBI jail and will be turned over to the Bureau of Immigration for summary deportation proceedings, according to NBI Interpol Division chief Claro de Castro Jr.

Investigation conducted by Special Investigator Pierre Lemuel Loyola showed that the German Federal Police in Cologne launched a manhunt for Kolvenbach after the suspect allegedly defrauded European clients of as much as 30,000 to 50,000 euros (P2.02 million to P3.37 million).

Kolvenbach, who was based in Troisborf, Germany, from March 2002 to June 2004, offered various goods through Internet auctions without supplying the products, even after payments were made through banking and wire transfers.

When the German Federal Police found out that Kolvenbach was using cellular phone numbers registered under a local network, they requested assistance from the NBI.

"The German law enforcers concluded that Kolvenbach may have taken his illegal operations to the Philippines to avoid being arrested and prosecuted in Germany," De Castro explained.

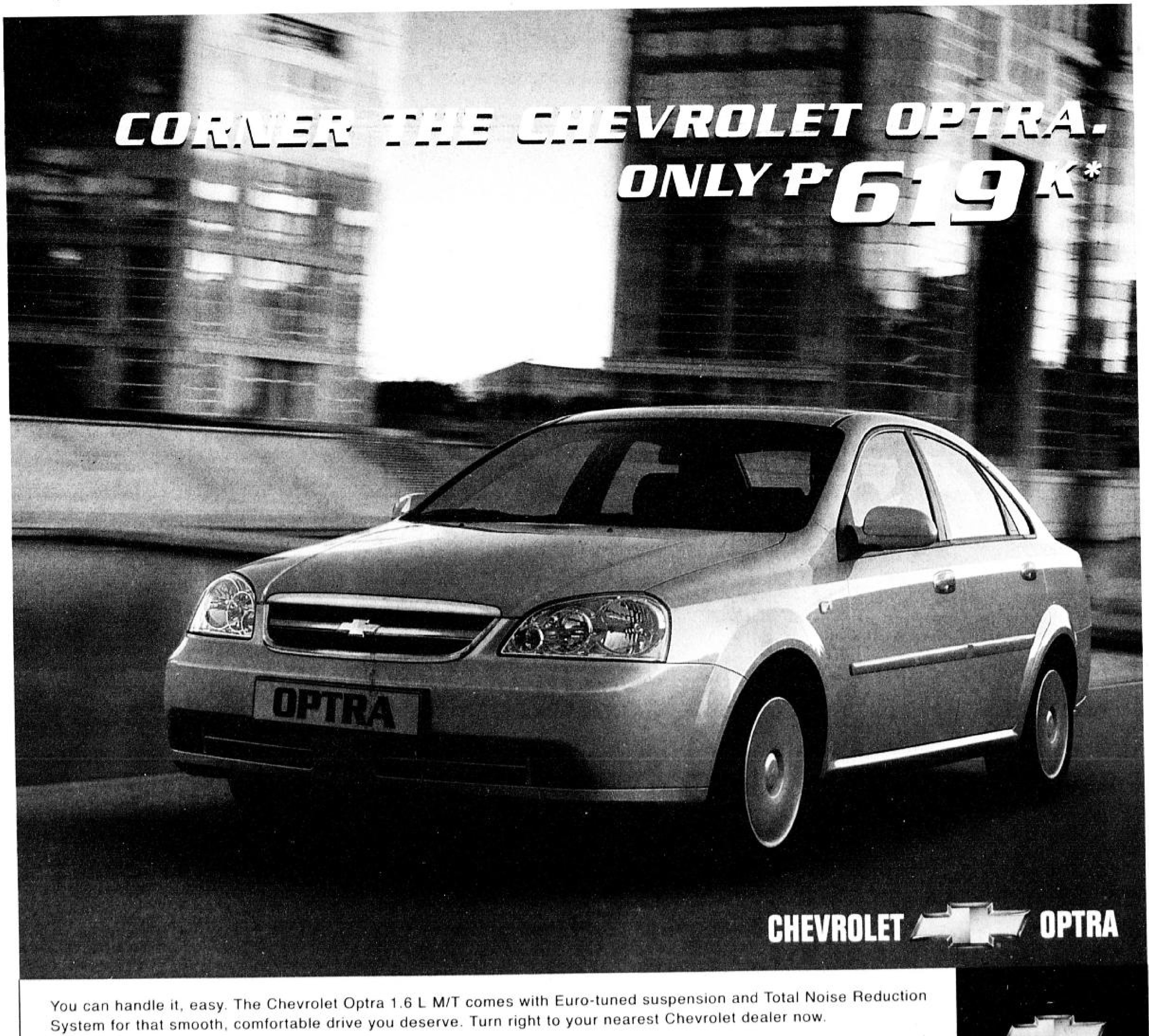
He added that based on information given by the BI, the suspect arrived in the country on April 26, 2005 and has been here since. "The subject had apparently decided to live in the country without acquiring the necessary legal permit from BI," the NBI official said.

De Castro said they received additional information from the German police that Kolvenbach had fraudulently acquired 80,000 euros through money transfers between June and September 2005 by victimizing foreign clients on the Internet.

The NBI Interpol agents were able to find out Kolvenbach's Philippine address through his eBay account—an auction website on the Internet—which has now been suspended because of his alleged fraudulent activities.

The agents then placed under watch the house at City Homes Subdivision in Dasmariñas, Cavite, where the suspect was allegedly staying.

NBI and BI operatives arrested the suspect in his home last Wednesday after serving a decree of withdrawal issued by the German Embassy which immediately cancelled his passport.



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## METROBRIEFS

### Undercover cops in schools

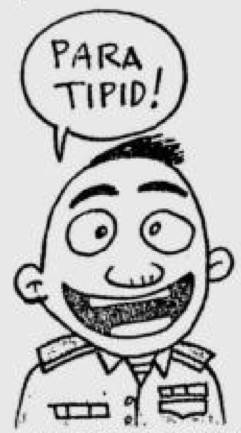


ILLUSTRATION: STEPH BRAVO

THE EASTERN Police District will deploy undercover policemen in schools when classes open in the next few weeks. "We are planning to deploy policemen in civilian clothes in schools during the start of classes not only to protect students from robbers, snatchers but also from illegal drug pushers," Supt. Elmer Escosia, EPD intelligence and investigation division chief, told the INQUIRER. Though he said the police had been launching operations against pushers, peddling of illegal drugs was still rampant in schools because of poverty. "The principal reason pushers engage in drugs is because they don't have other means to earn money," Escosia said. He added that his teams were monitoring critical areas like Barangay Welfareville in Mandaluyong City and Barangays Sto. Tomas, Pineda and Pinagbuhatan in Pasig City. The EPD would be keeping an eye on at least 72 public and 82 private elementary schools, high schools and colleges in the cities of Marikina, Mandaluyong, Pasig and the town of San Juan. *Edson C. Tandoc Jr.*

### New freedom parks

NEED to vent your grievances? Proceed to the Malibay Plaza in Pasay City. The City Council has just passed an ordinance designating the plaza as a freedom park where people can freely assemble to hold protest actions. The ordinance was passed on third and final reading in compliance with the Supreme Court's order that all local government units must designate specific freedom parks in their areas. The councilors said the Malibay Plaza, which is located on E. Rodriguez Street in Barangay Malibay, just off Edsa, is the "most suitable place in the city for protestors to peaceably assemble and petition for redress of grievances." In Muntinlupa, the city government has officially designated the Liwasang Bonifacio Park in Alabang as a freedom park. Mayor Jaime Fresnedi said ralliers may assemble at the park, but they should first get a permit from the local government. *Jocelyn R. Uy*

### 50 homeless families

MORE than 50 families lost their homes in a fire that razed a community in Sta. Cruz, Manila, shortly after midnight yesterday. SFO1 Emmanuel Gaspar said the fire began around 12:56 a.m. at the fourth floor of Adelaida Pangilinan's house at 1281 Elias St. in the Sta. Cruz area. It was put out at 1:53 a.m. The fire quickly spread throughout the neighborhood and destroyed 25 shanties, Damage to property was estimated at about P400,000, Gaspar added. Nobody was reported injured during the incident, the arson investigator said. *Margaux C. Ortiz*

# 3 firms closed for pollution

**By Blanche S. Rivera**

LAGUNA LAKE DEVELOPMENT Authority has shut down three firms, including a popular family restaurant in Metro Manila, for illegally discharging waste water.

Cease-and-desist orders were served on Max's Restaurant in South Triangle, Quezon Avenue, ACLEM Paper Mills Inc. in San Pedro, Laguna, and several offices of the E. Malabanan Excavator and Plumbing Services, including its affiliate office, the Bam Plumbing Services Inc., all in Pasig City.

"Max's has been operating without a discharge permit and it failed effluent standards in all parameters," LLDA general manager Casimiro Ynares III said in a phone interview yesterday.

Two teams from the LLDA and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources served the closure orders on the three polluting firms Thursday afternoon.

"If they can serve customers without water, then fine, because we have sealed their water sources," Ynares said when asked if the order meant that the restaurant could no longer operate. The INQUIRER called up the restaurant manager for comment several times yesterday but he had already left.

He added that he personally sealed two faucets in the restaurant which had been violating environmental regulations since 2003.

Max's owes the LLDA at least P1 million in fines for failing the effluent standards while ACLEM has been fined around P1.3 million.

ACLEM Paper Mills, which the LLDA described as a persistent violator, has been served two CDOs since 1995, when it was first issued a notice of violation.

"They still operate when no one's looking, that's why we plan to file criminal charges against them," Ynares said.

Max's restaurant, on the other hand, has been trying to comply with the requirements but a sampling conducted two weeks ago showed it once again failed to meet the standards despite remedial measures.

Ynares said the company will not be allowed to operate until it has come up with a plan for the construction of a waste water treatment facility, including the cost and timetable for its operation.

The DENR, meanwhile, enforced the cease-and-desist order on the E. Malabanan Belen Excavator and Plumbing Services and Bam Plumbing Services offices in Pasig City.

The septic tank excavators were sanctioned for violating Republic Act 9275 or the Philippine Clean Water Act when it drained sludge into a Pasig creek last week. The Pasig government last week shut down two offices of E. Malabanan in Barangay Sta. Lucia following the incident.

The LLDA has started a crackdown on polluting firms within its jurisdiction as experts reported that the 90,000-ha Laguna de Bay, the biggest inland body of water in the country, was "extremely stressed," and close to dying.

**HOLIDAY IN THE PARK**
With summer nearly over and school set to open in a few weeks, a group of children and their parents enjoy a picnic at the Quezon Memorial Circle in Quezon City.
JOAN BONDOC

# 4 hurt in flyover accident

**By DJ Yap**

FOUR YOUNG MEN ABOARD A Honda Civic were seriously hurt on Thursday in Quezon City after their car rammed into a payloader, a vehicle used to move heavy materials.

The accident occurred at about 1:20 p.m. on the Katipunan flyover in front of Sta. Clara Church, traffic investigators said.

Karlo Martin Ramos, 17, was traveling southbound on Katipunan Avenue when he lost control of the wheel.

The car, with plate number UBK-862, hit the rear of the vehicle ahead of it, a Kawasaki payloader, according to a report by Traffic Sector 3 investigator SPO1 Lerma Valladolid.

The payloader, which was owned by the Quezon City government, was driven by Edgardo Santiago, 39, a heavy equipment operator.

The impact of the collision injured Ramos and his three passengers, Juan Paolo Tolentino, Peter Luis Ortega, and Andrew Ernest Mati, who were taken to the hospital for treatment.

Trans Co
Republic of the Philippines
**National Transmission Corporation**
*South Luzon Operations and Maintenance*

**Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid**

*Refurbishment of Corroded Overhead Ground Wire (OHGW)
along Calaca-Sta. Rosa 230kV Transmission Line
(From BCFTPP Gantry to Tower No. 112)*

The proposed project is located in Batangas Province with an estimated length of 39.935 linear kilometers. The work contemplated to be done by the successful bidder shall consist of furnishing all superintendence, labor and materials, supplies, tools and equipment and other incidentals necessary for the complete replacement of corroded overhead ground wire including line hardwares in accordance with the requirements of the Plans and Specifications.

*[TRANS-05-RCOGWCSR-EG-08]*

The ***NATIONAL TRANSMISSION CORPORATION-SLOM***, through the *Internal Cash Generation (ICG)* intends to apply the sum of *Three Million One Hundred Thousand (Php3,100,000.00)* being the Approved Budget for Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the *Refurbishment of Corroded Overhead Ground Wire (OHGW) along Calaca-Sta. Rosa 230kV Transmission Line (From BCFTPP Gantry 1 to Tower No. 112)*. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening

The ***NATIONAL TRANSMISSION CORPORATION-SLOM*** now invites potential Bidders to submit Letter of Intent (LOI) and apply for eligibility for the *Refurbishment of Corroded Overhead Ground Wire (OHGW) along Calaca-Sta. Rosa 230kV Transmission (From BCFTPP Gantry to Tower No. 112)* Bidders should possess a valid ***PCAB license with License Particular of at least: "Category D & C, Electrical Works" and Registration Particular of at least: "Small B, Electrical Works (Power Transmission and Distribution),"*** respectively, have completed a similar contract involving supply of all labor, materials, supervision necessary for the *refurbishment of corroded overhead ground wire*. The value of which should be at least 50% of the ABC, and meet the other minimum eligibility requirements stated in the eligibility documents. Applications for eligibility will be evaluated on a "pass/fail" basis. The last day for submission of eligibility documents shall be on the same date of the opening of Eligibility documents: ***June 9, 2006, 9:00 A.M.*** at the address mentioned in the next succeeding paragraphs. Only those Bidders passing the eligibility check will be entitled to purchase the Bidding Document Completion of the works is required by *sixty (60) working days*.

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act No. 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act, and is restricted, unless otherwise stated, to organizations with at least seventy-five percent (75%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines. In accordance with IRR-A of R.A. 9184, only bids from Bidders who passed the eligibility check will be opened. The Bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine its responsiveness to the technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during post-qualification.

Interested Bidders shall secure the Eligibility documents from the BAC Secretariat at the address stated below, starting ***May 22 – June 8, 2006 from 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.*** upon payment of a non-refundable fee of *Php1,000.00*. They shall submit their accomplished Eligibility documents on or before ***June 9, 2006, 9:00 A.M.*** at the stated address. Eligibility Screening shall be held on ***June 9, 2006, 9:30 A.M.*** at the OAVP Conference Room B of the stated address.

Interested eligible Bidders may obtain further information from ***NATIONAL TRANSMISSION CORPORATION-SLOM*** *Regional Contracts Management Office (RCMO)* and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from ***8:00 A.M.*** to ***5:00 P.M.*** on ***June 19 – 23, 2006***.

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by Bidders that passed the eligibility check upon the presentation of the Notice of Eligibility to the BAC Secretariat at the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of *Php5,000.00*. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the bidder or his authorized representative starting ***June 19-23, 2006, 8:00 A.M. – 5:00 P.M.***

The ***NATIONAL TRANSMISSION CORPORATION-SLOM*** will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all Eligible Bidders on ***June 28, 2006, 9:00 A.M.*** at the OAVP Conference Room Transco, SLOM San Vicente, Biñan, Laguna.

Deadline for submission of bids is on ***July 12, 2006, 9:00 A.M.*** at the address below. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in any of the prescribed form indicated under Section 27.2 of R.A. 9184. Bid opening shall be on the same date, ***July 12, 2005, 9:30 A.M.*** at the ***OAVP Conference Room B of Transco SLOM***. Late Bids shall not be accepted. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend.

The ***NATIONAL TRANSMISSION CORPORATION-SLOM*** reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

*National Transmission Corporation – South Luzon Operations & Maintenance
Regional Contracts Management Office (RCMO)
San Vicente, Biñan, Laguna 4024
Mr. Ruben G. Castuera – BAC Chairman
(02) 981-4576 to 78 local 4094; 4086; 4053
rgcastuera@transco.ph
(02) 981-4576 to 78 local 4007
www.transco.ph*

(Sgd.) RUBEN G. CASTUERA
BAC Chairman

(PDI–May 20 & 28, 2006)

TransCo
Republic of the Philippines
National Transmission Corporation
**Section I.**

**Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid**

Supply, Delivery and Commissioning of Primary DCV,
Resistance Standard, Reference Multi-Meter and
Thermo-Hygrometer
(Reference No.: PB060322-EL0039)

1. The *National Transmission Corporation, Head Office Region (TRANSCO-HO)* through the *CY2006 Corporate Budget approved by the TRANSCO Board*, intends to apply the sum of ***Php 6,700,000.00*** being the Total Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the **Supply, Delivery and Commissioning of Primary DCV, Resistance Standard, Reference Multi-Meter and Thermo-Hygrometer**. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.
2. The *TRANSCO-HO* now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for *Primary DCV*. Delivery of the GOODS is required *within sixty (60) calendar days from receipt of approved Purchase Order*. The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB.
3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine resposiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.
4. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders, starting **May 19, 2006 to June 22, 2006 from 9:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.** at the address below and upon payment of a non refundable fee in the amount of *One Thousand Pesos (PhP 1,000.00)*. The method of payment will be CASH. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.
5. The *TRANSCO-HO* will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on **June 8, 2006 at 2:00 P.M.** at same address below. Requests for clarifications on the bid documents should be submitted before the Pre-Bid Conference.
6. Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below on or before **2:00 P.M. of June 23, 2006**. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in any of the following form and amount:

| Form of Security | Amount |
|---|---|
| 1. Cash, certified check, cashier's check manager's check, bank draft or irrevocable letter of credit (1% of ABC) | Php 67,000.00 |
| 2. Bank guarantee (1.5% of ABC) | Php 100,500.00 |
| 3. Surety bond (2.5% of ABC) | Php 167,500.00 |
| 4. Foreign government guarantee (100% of ABC) | Php 6,700,000.00 |

or an equivalent amount in a freely convertible currency. Late bids shall not be accepted.

7. Bid opening shall be on **June 23, 2006 / 2:00 P.M.** at the *Admin Conference Rm. same address below*. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below.
8. The *National Transmission Corporation* reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

*National Transmission Corporation, Head Office Region
Mr. Armando N. Ochoa, BAC Chairman
MMD Office, G/F TransCo Main Bldg.
Power Center, Quezon Ave. corner BIR Road
Diliman, Quezon City
Tel. No. (632) 9812235 / Fax No. (632) 9228432
Website: www.transco.ph*

(Sgd.) ARMANDO N. OCHOA
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI – May 20 & 27, 2006)

# An illogical court decision

**ON TARGET**

*Ramon Tulfo*

JUDGE ANDRES B. SORIANO OF the Bulacan Regional Trial Court in Malolos will probably go down in history as the judge who convicted a completely crippled man for rape.

His decision can even make it to the Guinness Book of World Records.

Ronaldo "Jeff" Quesada, 33, a quadriplegic, was sentenced to life imprisonment. A quadriplegic is somebody who can't move both hands and two feet.

Quesada can't even answer the call of nature without being carried to the toilet by at least two men. He weighs 150 lbs.

Since he can't move his hands and feet, Jeff has difficulty crawling on his stomach.

So, how could he have mounted the complainant, who was 16 years old at the time of the alleged rape, and who Jeff claims was his girlfriend? The complainant is now 19 years old.

But how could there be penetration since Jeff can't move his upper and lower extremities?

Jeff's physical therapist, Melvin Maramot, testified that "it would be impossible for the accused to do the upward and downward motion and lead his private part to the private part of the offended party (complainant) because the sexual position required great coordination of muscles."

Maramot said that for Jeff to have sex, three persons would be needed to help him—one to mount him, another to keep him stable while on top, and still another to push his buttocks.

But Judge Soriano would have none of Maramot's testimony.

The complainant said that Jeff's distant cousin, who allegedly assisted him in the act by holding her, had slapped her across the face and threatened her with further bodily harm with a knife if she would not cooperate.

As a journalist and long-time police reporter, I've heard about or encountered incredible things or events. But Jeff's conviction for rape beats them all.

* * *

**In fairness to Soriano, he inherited the case from Judge Maria Belen R. Liban who did not continue hearing the case after this corner kept criticizing her for pussyfooting.**

**I pointed out that Liban should have dismissed the rape case against Jeff outright after seeing his condition.**

**The case was filed by Bulacan Prosecutor Rita Gammad.**

**What kind of judges and prosecutors do they have in Bulacan?**

**Logic would have dictated that the rape against a complete cripple like Jeff should have been dismissed.**

* * *

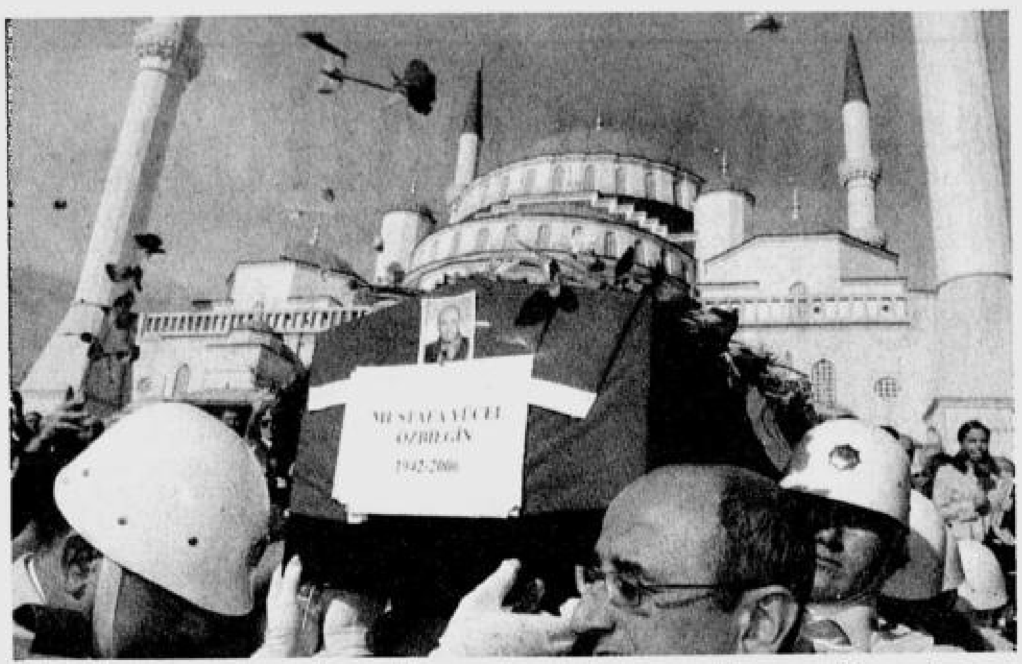
A Pasay City Regional Trial Court judge allegedly goes to the Manila Pavilion hotel casino three times a week, a casino employee told me.

My source said the judge plays in the room reserved for VIPs, meaning he wins or loses tens of thousands of pesos.

At a minimum of P10,000 per night that the good judge could lose, that's P30,000 a week or P120,000 a month.

Where does the judge get the money for his bets or losses?

# Judge's slay spurs secularist backlash in Turkey



THOUSANDS attend the funeral of slain judge Mustafa Ozbilgin outside Kocatepe Mosque in Ankara May 18. The funeral turned into a march in defense of secularism in mainly Muslim Turkey. AFP

ANKARA—TENS OF THOUSANDS OF Turks took to the streets here Thursday, chanting anti-Islamist slogans and calling on the government to resign as a deadly fundamentalist attack on senior judges landed Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan in the hot seat.

The attack on the country's top administrative court underscored a deepening rift between the secularist establishment and the Islamist-rooted government, often accused of trying to reinforce the role of religion in politics and daily life in secular Turkey, which is seeking to join the European Union.

"Turkey is secular, it will remain secular," "Down with Sharia (Islamic law)," "Mullahs, go to Iran," protesters shouted, brandishing flags and portraits of modern Turkey's founding father Mustafa Kemal Ataturk.

The scene repeated itself at several ceremonies for a senior judge who was killed Wednesday when a gunman shouting "I am a soldier of Allah" sprayed gunfire at a meeting room at the Council of State, wounding four other judges.

The gunman, 29-year-old Istanbul lawyer Iparslan Arslan, said he wanted to "punish" the Council for a February ruling that upheld a ban on women wearing the Islamic headscarf in public institutions and universities, court officials said.

Anger simmered at the funeral of judge Mustafa Yucel Ozbilgin, 64, where protesters booed government ministers, hurled plastic bottles at them and called Erdogan, off on a trip to southern Turkey, "a murderer."

Media reports said Deputy Prime Minister Abdullatif Sener was punched in the shoulders and escorted to safety by policemen forming a human chain around him.

The unprecedented shooting sparked accusations that the government had emboldened anti-secular extremists with its opposition to the headscarf ban and harsh criticism of court rulings confirming it.

The secularist establishment, including the powerful army, sees the headscarf as a symbol of Islamic militancy.

Scores of military officers, including senior generals, attending the funeral were greeted with ovations from the crowd, bringing back memories of political turmoil in 1997 when the army forced Turkey's first Islamist-led government to resign.

Erdogan's Justice and Development Party (AKP) is an offshoot of the ousted and now-banned party, but has disowned its origins, describing itself as simply "conservative."

Earlier, some 25,000 people marched to Ataturk's mausoleum, led by the president of the Council of State, Sumru Cortoglu, and other senior jurists.

Arslan, who used his professional ID to get past security at the Council of State on Wednesday, was arrested immediately after the shooting. *AFP*

## WorldBriefs

### UN panel: Close Gitmo

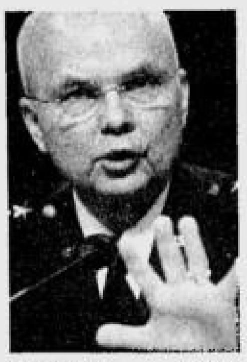
GENEVA—The United Nations committee against torture told the United States on Friday it should close any secret prisons abroad and the Guantanamo Bay facility in Cuba, saying they violated international law. The 10 independent experts, who examined the US record at home and abroad, urged President George W. Bush's administration to "rescind any interrogation technique" that constituted torture or cruel treatment of foreign terrorism detainees. It cited use of dogs to terrify detainees, "water-boarding" which is a form of mock drowning, and sexual humiliation. The United States "should ensure that no one is detained in any secret detention facility under its de facto effective control" and "investigate and disclose the existence of any such facilities," said the committee, which has moral authority but no legal power to enforce its recommendations. His lawyers argued successfully for years that a series of strokes had left the former dictator with irreparable brain damage and that he was not fit to stand trial. *Reuters*

### Fujimori leaves jail

FUJIMORI AFP

SANTIAGO—Former Peruvian President Alberto Fujimori, facing criminal charges in Peru, was released from Chilean jail on bail Thursday while courts review an extradition request from the Peruvian government. His release came after the Supreme Court decided he could be freed during the extradition review, expected to take another month. His release sparked concerns in Peru that Fujimori would flee, but the ex-leader denied that he would try to leave. "I came to Chile voluntarily," said Fujimori, who had unexpectedly arrived here from exile in Japan late last year. "(Leaving) is totally out of the question." The former two-term president paid $2,800 bail for his release on condition that he remain in Chile pending extradition proceedings. *AFP*

### On way to confirmation



HAYDEN REUTERS

WASHINGTON—Gen. Michael V. Hayden sought on Thursday to distance himself from the Pentagon and its role in prewar intelligence on Iraq, in an appearance that put him on track to win swift confirmation as the next director of the Central Intelligence Agency. In a confirmation hearing before the Senate intelligence committee, Hayden appeared in the pristine navy blue uniform he has worn for 36 years as an Air Force officer. But he repeatedly professed his independence from the Defense Department and its leadership, saying he had been "uncomfortable" with the work of a Pentagon intelligence office run by Douglas J. Feith, a former undersecretary of defense, which asserted in the months before the Iraq war that Iraq had established ties with al-Qaida operatives in the Middle East. He also spoke candidly about his disagreements with Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld about the Pentagon's control over a large part of America's annual intelligence budget. *NYT*

### Serious condition

SUHARTO AP

JAKARTA, Indonesia—Indonesia's ex-dictator Suharto is in "serious condition" after colon surgery earlier this month, the country's president said Friday, after visiting him in the hospital. Suharto, who was ousted after 32 years in power in 1998 amid student protests and nationwide riots, had the surgery earlier this month to stem intestinal bleeding. Doctors said a CT scan on Thursday revealed two new blockages in his brain, but did not elaborate. The Indonesian government last week announced plans to drop charges against Suharto, who was indicted in 2000 on allegations of embezzling US$600 million but has never seen the inside of a courtroom. *AP*

# 100 killed in Afghan violence

KANDAHAR, AFGHANISTAN—AFGHAN POlice hunted for Taliban insurgents on Friday after two of the country's bloodiest days since the 2001 overthrow of the hardline Islamists.

About 100 people were killed in violence that began on Wednesday. It included a large-scale attack on a town in the southern province of Helmand and two suicide blasts in different parts of the country.

"We are hunting for them all over Mosa Qala district, to capture them or kill them," said Helmand's deputy governor, Amir Mohammad Akhundzada.

Hundreds of Taliban stormed Mosa Qala town on Wednesday evening and fighting raged for hours. Thirteen policemen and about 50 insurgents were killed, Akhundzada said.

The Taliban have stepped up attacks on foreign and Afghan government forces in recent months as thousands more Nato peacekeepers arrive in the country.

The US military says the Taliban are intensifying their insurgency to try to sap domestic support for the foreign forces. There will soon be nearly 40,000 foreign troops in Afghanistan, the most since 2001.

Akhundzada said three policemen had been wounded in a clash with Taliban near Mosa Qala town late on Thursday and the Taliban were also believed to have suffered casualties.

But there were no other major incidents, he said.

Among the dead found after clashes on Thursday in Ghazni province, southwest of Kabul, was a provincial-level Taliban commander, said police chief Abdul Rahman Sarjang. He identified the commander as Qari Naeem.

Sixteen Taliban, three policemen and an intelligence official were killed in Ghazni on Thursday, officials said. A passer-by was killed in a suicide car-bomb attack on a US military convoy. One American was wounded. *Reuters*

# *War in Iraq was a grave mistake, says Italy premier*

ROME—PREMIER ROMANO Prodi said Thursday the war in Iraq was a grave mistake but that Italy would remain on the front lines in the war against terror.

"We consider the war and occupation in Iraq a grave error that hasn't solved—but has complicated—the problem of security," Prodi said in his first address to the Senate as premier. "Terrorism has found a new base and new excuses for internal and external terrorist action."

"We are convinced participants in the war against terrorism, even militarily, when it is legitimized by an international organization to which we belong." *AP*

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**REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS**
**RFA (492-06-005)**

An international organization is soliciting applications from only indigenous local organizations to assist appropriate Government of the Philippines (GOP) agencies and local government units to strengthen a health policy process that will improve health sector performance. It is envisioned that the selected Recipient will provide assistance in improving the policy environment and financing of essential health services.

It is envisioned that a five-year cooperative agreement to begin on or about October 1, 2006. Applicants may upload the detailed information in www.grants.gov. For inquiries, contact (632) 552-9924, look for Ms. May Bringula.

**REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS**
**RFA (492-06-006)**

An international organization is soliciting applications from only indigenous local organizations to assist public and private sector institution in the Philippines prevention and control of tuberculosis (TB) as well as address critical issues on emerging and reemerging infectious diseases.

It is envisioned that a five-year cooperative agreement to begin on or about October 1, 2006. Applicants may upload the detailed information in www.grants.gov. For inquiries, contact (632) 552-9924, look for Ms. May Bringula.

**REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS**
**RFA (492-06-007)**

An international organization is soliciting applications from U.S. or non-U.S. non-profit or for-profit nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), public international organizations (PIO or IO), and other qualified non-USG organizations to implement a program to assist appropriate Government of the Philippines (GRP) agencies and local government units to broaden the reach, improve the quality and sustain health promotion and communication to increase appropriate healthy behaviors and practices and consequently improve the health status of the Filipinos.

It is envisioned that a five-year cooperative agreement to begin on or about October 1, 2006. Applicants may upload the detailed information in www.grants.gov. For inquiries, contact (632) 552-9924, look for Ms. May Bringula.

(PDI - May 14, 20 & 21, 2006)

**REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS**
**RFA (492-06-008)**

An international organization is soliciting applications from U.S. or non-U.S. non-profit or for-profit nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), public international organizations (PIO or IO), and other qualified non-USG organizations to assist appropriate Government of the Philippines (GRP) agencies and local government units in strengthening systems, commitment and support for essential health services such as family planning, maternal and child health, tuberculosis and other infectious diseases, which will help the Regional Government, local governments and the communities in the ARMM Region to improve their health status in a sustainable way.

It is envisioned that a five-year cooperative agreement to begin on or about October 1, 2006. Applicants may upload the detailed information in www.grants.gov. For inquiries, contact (632) 552-9924, look for Ms. May Bringula.

**REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS**
**RFA (492-06-009)**

An international organization is soliciting applications from U.S. or non-U.S. non-profit or for-profit nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), public international organizations (PIO or IO), and other qualified non-USG organizations to implement a capacity/capability building and systems strengthening program to strengthen appropriate Government of the Philippines (GRP) agencies' and Local Government Units' (LGU) commitment to and support for public health services and enhance LGU capacity to provide and manage quality health services sustainably – especially family planning (FP, maternal and child health (MCH), tuberculosis (TB), HIV-AIDS, and other infectious diseases.

It is envisioned that a five-year cooperative agreement to begin on or about October 1, 2006. Applicants may upload the detailed information in www.grants.gov. For inquiries, contact (632) 552-9924, look for Ms. May Bringula.

(PDI - May 14, 20 & 21, 2006)

# The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

TWO men visit a Virgin of Guadalupe shrine before they begin the journey from Sasabe, Mexico, to Sasabe, Ariz., walking through the desert May 18. AP

## Mexico, 4 LatAm nations condemn US fence plan

MEXICO CITY—THE FOREIGN MINISTERS OF four Central American nations condemned US Senate plan to build hundreds of kilometers of triple-layered fence on the United States' southern border, saying it would not stop illegal immigration.

But although the top diplomats from Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Costa Rica and Mexico all slammed the proposal, they said their only action would be to make more declarations and send diplomatic notes.

In a joint news conference in Mexico City late Thursday, the five ministers said that building barriers is not the way to solve problems between neighboring nations.

"The position of Mexico and the other countries is that walls will not make a difference in terms of the solution to the migration problem," said Mexican Foreign Secretary Luis Ernesto Derbez.

On Wednesday, the US Senate approved a proposal to build 595 kilometers of triple-layer fencing along parts of the 3,200-kilometer border separating the US and Mexico.

In the same session, the Senate agreed to give many illegal immigrants a shot at US citizenship.

Guatemalan Foreign Minister Jorge Briz said that a major immigration reform in the United States is the only way to stop the human wave heading northward.

"All of us are looking for a comprehensive migratory regulation so that millions of Latin Americans can continue working in and supporting the United States economy," Briz said.

Earlier Thursday, Mexico's Foreign Relations Department sent a diplomatic note to the US State Department outlining the nation's concerns about the proposed barrier.

Honduran Foreign Minister Milton Jimenez said that he expected the five nations and other countries in South America and the Caribbean to issue a joint declaration on the matter soon.

The US House of Representatives approved plans to build hundreds more miles of fencing in December, sparking a wave of criticism from Latin American leaders, with Mexican President Vicente Fox comparing such a barrier to the Berlin Wall.

Fox reiterated his criticisms on Thursday.

"Building walls, constructing barriers on the border does not offer an efficient solution in a relationship of friends, neighbors and partners," Fox said in the border city of Tijuana. "We will go on defending the rights of our countrymen without rest or respite. With passion we will demand the full respect of their human rights."

On the border with Arizona, bedraggled migrants who had been turned back by the border patrol said that more fences would not keep them from crossing but only make smugglers charge more money for the trip. *AP*

## Is English US's 'national' or 'unifying' language? Senate debates hot topic

WASHINGTON—WHETHER English is America's "national language" or its national "common and unifying language" was a question that dominated the Senate immigration debate.

The Senate first voted 63-34 on Thursday to make English the national language after lawmakers who led the effort said it would promote national unity.

But critics argued the move would prevent limited English speakers from getting language assistance required by an executive order enacted under former President Bill Clinton. So the Senate also voted 58-39 to make English the nation's "common and unifying language."

"We are trying to make an assimilation statement," said Republican Sen. Lindsey Graham of South Carolina, one of two dozen senators who voted for both English proposals.

Republican Sen. Jim Inhofe of Oklahoma disputed charges that making English the national language was racist or aimed at Spanish speakers. Eleven Democrats voted for his measure.

Democratic Sen. Ken Salazar of Colorado offered the alternative. The only Republican to vote solely for Salazar's "common and unifying" language option was Sen. Pete Domenici of Arizona, whose home state's constitution prohibits discrimination on basis of inability to speak, read or write English or Spanish.

Both provisions will be included in an immigration bill the Senate is expected to pass and send to conference with the House, where differences will be resolved.

President George W. Bush, who often peppers his speeches with Spanish words and phrases, had little to say about the Senate votes while visiting the Arizona-Mexico border. "The Senate needs to get the bill out," the president said.

Bush toured an unfortified section of the border in the Arizona desert Thursday, where he endorsed using fences and other barriers to cut down on illegal crossings. The Senate on Wednesday voted to put 595 kilometers of fences on the border.

Bush's border visit was part of his efforts to win over conservatives balking at his support for a path to citizenship for illegal immigrants and a new guest worker program.

Bush asked Congress for $1.9 billion (euro1.5 billion) Thursday to pay for 1,000 Border Patrol agents and the temporary deployment of up to 6,000 National Guard troops to states along the Mexican border.

His request was not warmly welcomed by some key senators. *AP*

## *Americana: In the name of 'heaven'*

**By Jennifer Lee**

IN 1999, THERE WERE ONLY eight newborn American girls named Nevaeh. Last year, it was the 70th-most-popular name for baby girls, ahead of Sara, Vanessa and Amanda.

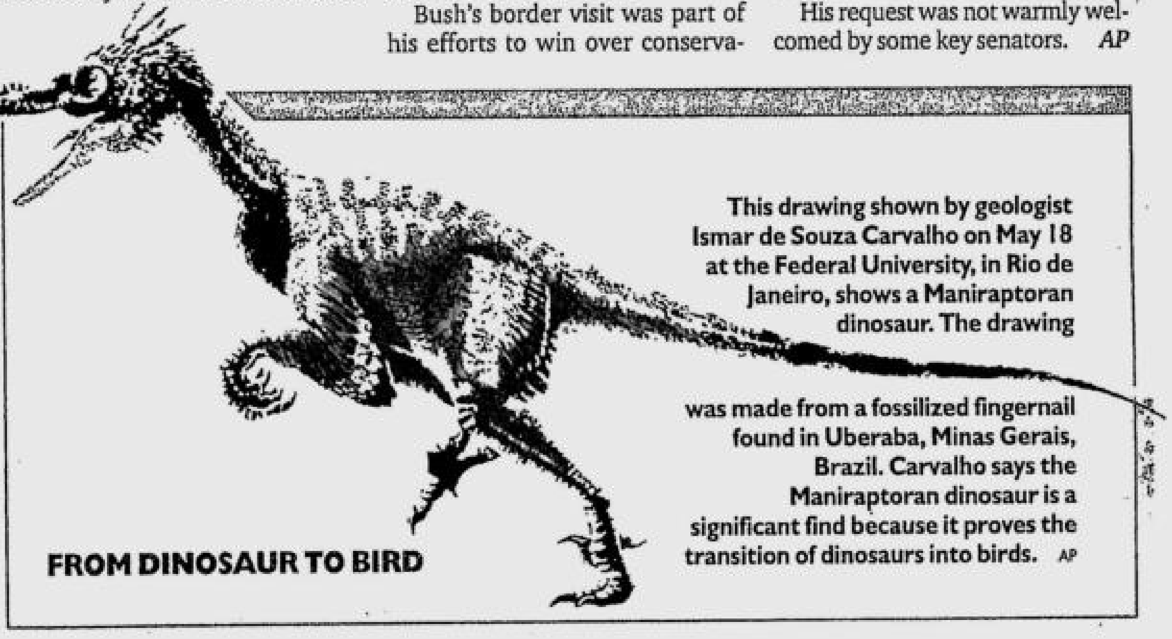
The spectacular rise of Nevaeh (commonly pronounced na-VAY-uh) has little precedent, name experts say. They watched it break into the top 1,000 of girls' names in 2001 at No. 266, the third-highest debut ever. Four years later it cracked the top 100 with 4,457 newborn Nevaehs, having made the fastest climb among all names since the government started keeping track of them more than a century ago.

Nevaeh, tucked between Madeline (69) and Evelyn (71), is not in the Bible or any religious text. It is not from a foreign language. It is not the name of a celebrity, real or fictional.

Nevaeh is Heaven spelled backward.

The name has hit a cultural nerve with its religious overtones, creative twist and fashionable final "ah" sound. It has risen most quickly among blacks but is also popular with evangelical Christians, who have helped propel other religious names like Grace (ranked 14th) and Elijah (31st among boys' names) up the charts, experts say. By contrast, the name Heaven is ranked 245th.

The surge of Nevaeh can be traced to a single event: the appearance of a Christian rock star, Sonny Sandoval of POD, on MTV in 2000 with his baby daughter, Nevaeh. "Heaven spelled backward," he said. *NYT*



**FROM DINOSAUR TO BIRD**

**This drawing shown by geologist Ismar de Souza Carvalho on May 18 at the Federal University, in Rio de Janeiro, shows a Maniraptoran dinosaur. The drawing was made from a fossilized fingernail found in Uberaba, Minas Gerais, Brazil. Carvalho says the Maniraptoran dinosaur is a significant find because it proves the transition of dinosaurs into birds.** AP

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

TV GUIDE

Saturday, May 20, 2006

Sayaw. Drama. Iba.
Shall We Dance? The Celebrity Dance Challenge
Sunday 9 PM
hosted by Lucy Torres Gomez
ABC Iba Tayo!
ClickTheCity.com

| Channel | 2:30PM | 3:00PM | 3:30PM | 4:00PM | 4:30PM | 5:00PM | 5:30PM | 6:00PM | 6:30PM | 7:00PM | 7:30PM | 8:00PM | 8:30PM | 9:00PM | 9:30PM | 10:00PM | 10:30PM | 11:00PM | 11:30PM |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| ABC 5 | Kid's TV | KNN | Anime Ring Kaisho |  | PBA |  |  |  |  | Wow Maling Mali |  | Ripley's Believe It or Not |  | Red Firecracker, Green Firecracker |  |  |  |  |  |
| ABS-CBN 2 | ETK |  |  |  | Little Big Star |  | Komiks |  |  | Quizon Avenue |  | TV Patrol World | XXX |  | Pinoy Big Brother | Sabado Movie Grabe |  |  |  |
| AXN |  | The Foreigner |  |  |  | The World's Scariest [illegible] Caught On Tape |  | WRC 2006: Rally XS | E Buzz | The Amazing Race (Season IX) |  | The Amazing Race (Season IX) |  | Lost (Season II) |  | Numb3rs (Season 2) |  | Supernatural (Season I) |  |
| Cartoon Network | Powerpuff Girls | Foster's Home For Imaginary Friends | Tom & Jerry Show | Pet Alien | Coconut Fred's Fruit Salad Island | Camp Lazlo | The Grim Adventures Of Billy & Mandy | The Simpsons |  | [illegible] Breaking Point |  |  | The Grim Adventures Of Billy & Mandy | The Simpsons |  | Battle B-Daman | Power Rangers Dino Thunder | Justice League Unlimited | Aqua Teen Hunger Force/Sealab 2021 |
| Cinema One | [illegible] Kita Mula [illegible] Hanggang Pa |  |  |  | April Snow |  |  |  | Bouz Of U |  |  |  | Hanggang Saan Hanggang Kailan |  |  |  | D' Anothers |  |  |
| Cinemax |  |  |  | Happy Campers (3:50PM) |  |  | An Officer And A Gentleman |  |  |  | Pterodactyl |  |  | Bean |  |  | The Italian Job |  |  |
| CNN | Next@CNN | World News | Global Office | World News | World Sport | Larry King Live |  | World News | World Sport | World News | Main Sail | World News | World Sport | World News | Global Office | Principal Voices: Urbanization | Next@CNN | Talk Asia | The Daily Show With Jon Stewart |
| Crime/Suspense |  | Mastermind | Forensic Files | Bones |  | North Mission Road | Body Of Evidence | Crossing Jordan |  | Law & Order |  | Bones |  | Prison Break |  | Proof Of Life |  |  |  |
| Discovery Channel |  |  |  | Unsolved History |  | Power Zone |  |  |  | Discovery Encore |  | The FBI Files |  | Crime Stories |  | World's Strangest UFO Stories |  | American Chopper |  |
| Disney Channel | Lizzie Mcguire | Totally Spies Double Episodes |  | Brandy & Mr. Whiskers | Lilo & Stitch | Buzz on Maggie | Mr. Bean | Phil Of The Future | Suite Life Of Zack And Cody | That's So Raven | Legends Of The Bird Of Fire Baptist |  |  | Mr. Bean | America's Funniest Home Videos | Kim Possible | Martin Mystery | Go Figure |  |
| ESPN |  |  |  |  |  | World Tennis Masters '05 |  | LPGA Golf Sybase Classic by [illegible] Mercury NY,USA |  |  |  | New American Sportsman | NBA Playoffs Conf. Semis Games |  |  |  |  | Winter X Games Classic | NBA Anthology |
| ETC |  | Joan Of Arcadia |  | Friends 10 | Will & Grace 4 | Veronica Mars 2 |  | The O.C.3 |  | Beach Girls |  | Queer Eye For The Straight Guy |  | Saturday Night Live |  | Entertainment Tonight | The Insider | The Tonight Show With Jay Leno |  |
| ETC 2nd Avenue |  | Trading Spouses |  | Today Show - 1 Hour Version |  | Dateline |  | Showdog Moms & Dads |  | NBC Nightly News | Hollywood One On One | Blowout 2 |  | Inside the Actor's Studio |  | ER |  | NBC Nightly News | WSJR |
| EWTN | Visionaries, Mystics & Stigmatists | Chaplet Of Mercy/ Angelus | Image Of God | Adventures In Odyssey | Rosary With Mother Angelica | Knights Of St. [illegible] | Catholic Compass |  | Life Is Worth Living | The World Over Encore |  | Daily Mass Live |  | Holy Land Rosary/ Angelus | The Word Was Made Flesh | Values On Value | Backstage | Life on The Rock Encore |  |
| Fox News |  | On The Record With Greta Van Susteren |  | The O'Reilly Factor |  | Your World With Neil Cavuto |  | Special Report With Brit Hume |  | Fox & Friends Saturday |  |  |  |  |  | Bulls & Bears | Cavuto On Business | Forbes On Fox | Cashin' In |
| GMA 7 | Startalk |  |  | Wish Ko Lang |  | Wag Kukurap | Pinoy Pop Superstar |  | Bitoy's Funniest Videos |  | Kapuso Mo, Jessica Soho |  | Imbestigador |  | Hokus Pocus |  |  | Showbiz Stripped |  |
| Hallmark Channel |  | Mcleod's Daughters IV |  | The Locket (4:05 PM) |  |  | Follow The Stars Home |  |  |  | Shut Up And Kiss Me |  |  | In Cold Blood |  |  | In Cold Blood (10:35PM) |  |  |
| HBO | Class Act (2:45 PM) |  |  | Scooby Doo 2: Monsters Unleashed |  |  | The Last Ride (5:45 PM) |  |  | Gremlins 2: The New Batch (7:15 PM) |  |  |  | Assault On Precinct 13 |  |  | Deadwood 22: [illegible] |  | Raising Cain (11:35PM) |
| Hero TV | Mon Colle Knights | Shaider | Mask Rider Ryuki | Gransazers | Shaman King | Bucky the Incredible Kid | Jester The Adventurer | Mursumet | The X-Treme Team | Love Hina | Fruits Basket | Lost Universe | Hero TV Weekly | Babel II | II OVA | Captain Kuppa | Mon Colle Knights | Shaider | Mask Rider Ryuki |
| IBC 13 |  | Home Shopping Network |  | Nations Peacekeeper | Auto Review | Home Shopping Network |  | Pamparap Kong Jackpot |  | Global Family Sunday [illegible] |  | Japan Video Topics |  | Bitag |  | Pinoys Sabong Sports |  |  |  |
| JackTV | X-Men | JLU | The Batman | Cheat | Fitar | Bottomline |  | Raw |  |  |  | Destruction | Banzai | Straight Plan For The Gay Man<br>Premium Blend Special 2001 |  | South Park | South Park | Drawn Together | Crank Yankers |
| Lifestyle Network | Carol Duvall | HGTV Special |  | Sheila Bridges: Designer Living | Radical Sabbatical | Simply Wine Andrea Immer | Food Fight | Date Plate | Emeril Live |  | Iron Chef America |  | White Hot Summer Special |  | NY Fashion Week | How Do I Look |  | E! Extra Celebrity Adventure |  |
| MTV Philippines | MI-3 Diary of Tom Cruise | Summerbreak Sessions' [illegible] | Bling | Sex Ed on the Beach |  | VH1's 25 Greatest Power Ballads |  | Boiling Points |  | Wildboyz |  | MTV Live Classic |  | MTV Free Ride | MTV Summer Grind | Brand New | MTV Hits | Jams | Rockola |
| MYX | Pop MYX | MYX Bandarito | MYX News | MYX Presents |  | Take 5 | Radio MYX | Top Of The Pops | Star MYX | OPM MYX | Pop MYX | MYX Live! |  | Pinoy MYX Countdown |  |  |  | MYX Backtrax | MYXILOG |
| National Geographic |  | Living Eden [illegible] Australia [illegible] |  | Planet Football [illegible] |  | Planet Football Footballers & Beauty Queens |  | Dangerous Encounters Super Snakes |  | Built for the Kill Grizzlies |  | Living Eden [illegible] of the Orient |  | Planet Football World Cup Stadiums |  | Planet Football [illegible] Football |  | No Borders, Ou [illegible] Daughters |  |
| NBN |  | Teledyaryo Alas-Tres |  | Teledyaryo Sports Alas |  | Kampo |  | Tinig ng Bayan (Live) |  | Talk To Harry |  | Handog Awit At [illegible] |  | Isla Hour On NBN |  | A.S.K. |  | Kruzada Kontra [illegible] |  |
| Nickelodeon | Drake & Josh | SpongeBob SquarePants | Trollz | The Fairly Odd Parents | Catscratch | Avatar Legend Of Aang | Danny Phantom | Zoey 101 | Ned's Declassified School Survival Guide | Dark Oracle | Unfabulous | SpongeBob SquarePants | The Fairly Odd Parents | As Told By Ginger | Girls In Love | The Brothers Garcia | The Amanda Show | My Dad The Rock Star |  |
| PBO |  |  | Hanggang Dito Na Lang |  |  |  | I Love You He Loves You Love Her |  |  |  | May Lamok Sa [illegible] Kulambo |  |  |  | Isang Bala, Isang Buhay |  |  |  | Bakas Sa [illegible] |
| Qtv |  | Twelve Kingdoms |  | Kaleido Star |  | Candies |  | Fans Kita |  | Aylil Robot |  | Day-Off |  | Sabado Showdown |  |  |  | Groupie TV |  |
| RPN 9 |  | Global Window | Sa Likod Ng Pinto | Biyaheng Langit | Global Window | Man & Machine |  | [illegible] (Kato Brothers) |  | Blind Justice |  | CSI Miami |  | Saturday Night Playhouse |  | Sheponts Video |  |  |  |
| SBN 21 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Sony Music Video |  | Sony Music Video |  | Oras Ng Himala |  | Oras ng [illegible] |  |  |  | SBN Music Video |  |
| Solar Sports |  |  |  |  |  | FIVB 2006 Dubai Women's Finals |  | PBO Preview Show | GWS 20-2006 | NBA Playoffs Conf. Semis Game 6 |  |  |  |  | Superfights: G. Elorde vs. B. [illegible] |  |  |  | PBO Preview Show |
| Sports Plus |  | World's C'ship Highlights |  | Golf Today | Inside the PGA | Gillette World Cup Preview 12 | EIFA Preview Series 10 | World Game |  |  |  | Ultimate Fighting Championship Special |  |  |  |  |  | EDS Byron Nelson Classic Highlights |  |
| Star Movies |  | Diamonds Are Forever |  |  |  | Spyhunter (5:?? PM) |  |  |  | Being Julia (7:?? PM) |  |  |  | GoldenEye |  |  |  | Dr. No (11:10PM) |  |
| Star World |  | The Collector [illegible] (Series 4) |  | Miami Vice |  | Wild Card |  | Less Than Perfect | The Drew Carey Show (Series 9) | Grey's Anatomy |  | TNA Xplosion |  | World's Most Amazing Videos/ [illegible] Road To Crown |  | Enterprise |  | The Simpsons | Less Than Perfect |
| Studio 23 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Sports TV | Survivor Panama Exile Island | Pinoy Big Brother |  | 7th Heaven (8:10 PM) |  |  | Studio 23 Presents |  |  |  |  |

TV SCHEDULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.

Clippers sail past Suns, force 7th game

/A26

# SPORTS

E-mail: pr_sports@inquirer.com.ph

*Editor* **Teddyvic S. Melendres**

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| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Austria, Renier | Same | GO21 |
| Nebria, Antonio | Same | ELIXIR SPORTS |
| Navarro, Reynaldo | Same | ONE SHOT WONDER |
| Sambrano, Renato | Same | COSSACK VODKA |
| Davadilla, Warren | Same | MAIL AND MORE |
| Obosa, Ericson | Same | INCA |
| Quirimit, Arnel | 01h51'24" | ELIXIR SPORTS |
| Caldron, Joel | 01h49'26" | RED BULL |

# Tour champ: Give me bigger odds

**FATHER'S PRIDE:** Tour winner Santy Barnachea of Team Sunbolt gets a kiss from his father Santiago. BOY CABRIDO

By Musong R. Castillo

SANTY Barnachea, saying he would have been happier with a greater challenge, completed his date with destiny yesterday.

After riding out the 75-kilometer criterium final stage for formality around the busy streets of Marikina, the 30-year-old native of Umingan, Pangasinan, crowned himself Tour Pilipinas Tanduay Padyak Pinoy champ to join the roster of fabled riders who had conquered taller odds before.

"*Naka-pabor sa akin 'yung ibang format ngayon na maiksi* (The short format of the race favored me a lot)," Barnachea said.

TOUR/ A24

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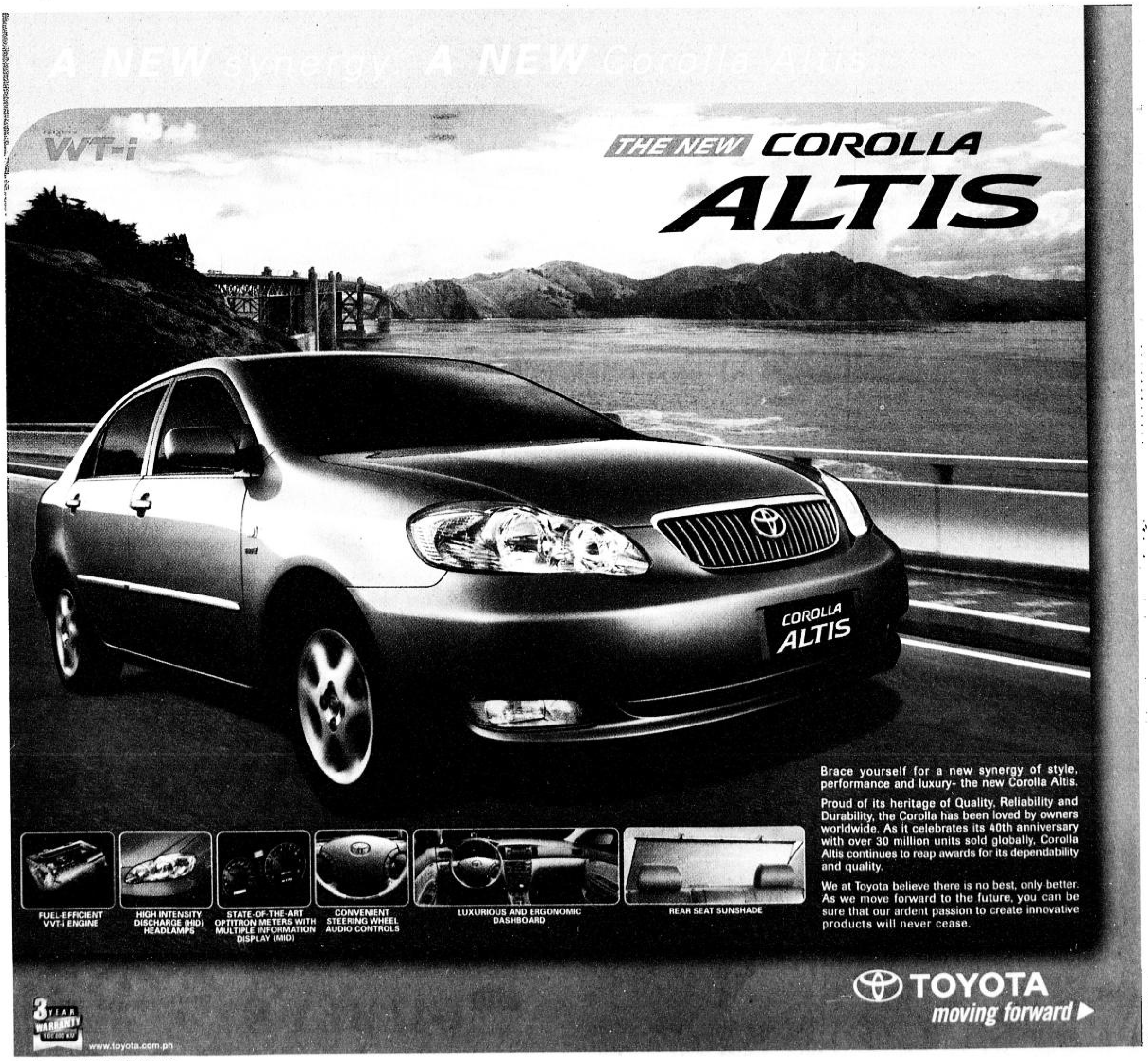

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# Barnachea craves for tougher cycling Tour

From page A23

"*At saka wala 'yung ibang malalakas, walang masyadong nagpahirap* (Many good veteran riders were not in the field, so I didn't have a really tough time)."

Barnachea arrived with the second wave of riders that completed 50 laps over a 1.5-km course, clocking 1 hour, 51 minutes and 24 seconds for the final installment to a well-played strategy that had him collaring the yellow jersey in the third stage going to Baguio on Saturday.

"*Dati kasi, pagdating namin sa Baguio lap, laspag na kami* (Before, we would already be spent when the Tour hit Baguio)," he said.

The rangy 2006 Tour champ traveled a total of 1,219.4 km in 31 hours, 10 minutes and 3 seconds, winning the crown over feared mountain climber Frederick Feliciano by 3 minutes and 58 seconds and by 8:54 over last year's winner, Warren Davadilla, who was fifth overall.

This year's Tour was just for eight stages, spread over eight days, roughly a third of the summer classics of the past.

Still, the win was worth P75,000 for Santy, plus P18,000 for having worn the yellow jersey for six days, and a piece of the P350,000 third place prize in the team race for the Sunbolt squad which he captained.

Joel Calderon, meanwhile, ruled the final stage, clocking 1:49.26, a minute and 57 seconds ahead of Barnachea's group, to finish 10th overall just over 22 minutes behind.

Ericson Obosa, the sprinter who won the opening stage from Quezon City to Cabanatuan Friday last week, wheeled in third overall, 6:54 behind Barnachea, with Irish Valenzuela, this Tour's top rookie, salvaging fourth, 8:32 behind.

Tomas Martinez was sixth, 9:57 adrift, Renato Sambrano seventh (12:05), former champion Arnel Quirimit, despite two-stage victories, was eighth, 16:43 behind. John Ricafort completed the composition of the Top 10, finishing 18:53 behind in ninth spot.

# Hugnatan tows Aces to q'finals

By Jasmine W. Payo

**ANTIPOLO CITY—RUNNING THEIR OFFENSE through Reynel Hugnatan, the Alaska Aces sealed an outright quarterfinal bid via a 95-77 triumph over the San Miguel Beermen in the Gran Matador Brandy-PBA Philippine Cup yesterday at the Ynares Center.**

Hugnatan, coming off the bench, poured in 12 of his conference-high 16 points in the second half to help the Aces pull away against a nothing-to-lose Beermen squad.

"San Miguel didn't have anything to play for, but they came out hard," said coach Tim Cone after his Aces moved up to fourth with an 8-7 slate.

The Beermen, already assured of an outright semifinal stint, fell into a tie for first place with Purefoods at 11-4.

Jeffrey Cariaso sparked the Aces' 10-2 run for a 54-50 edge after trailing, 44-48, in the third period. The Aces continued to pull away at 60-53 after three-point plays by Willie Miller and Hugnatan.

In the second game, Dennis Espino buried a short jumper at the buzzer to lift Sta. Lucia past Talk 'N Text, 91-89, and end the Phone Pals outright quarterfinal bid.

The Realtors improved to 4-11 while the Phone Pals dropped their sixth straight game for a 5-10 record.

Meanwhile, the PBA slapped a one-game suspension and a P5,000 fine on Ginebra star Mark Caguioa for his unsportsmanlike behavior in the Kings' 99-88 loss to Coca-Cola last Wednesday.

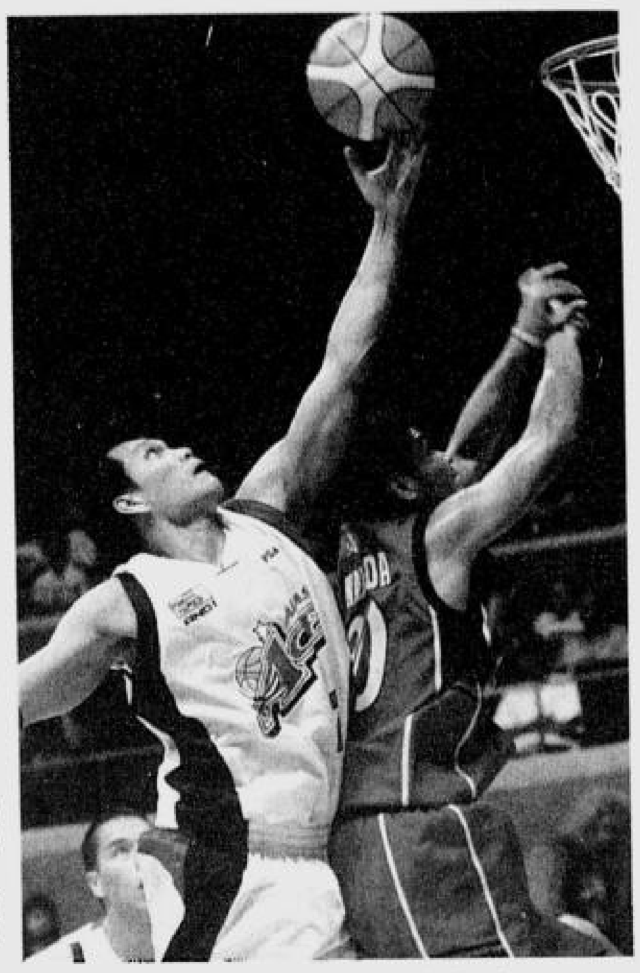
**The scores:**

**First Game**

**ALASKA 95**—Hugnatan 16, Belasco 15, Miller 13, Cariaso 12, Thoss 10, Dela Cruz 8, Cortez 7, Laure 6, Ferriols 6, Wilson 2, Bajar 0.

**SAN MIGUEL 77**—Seigle 21, Pena 15, Ildefonso 12, Calaguio 8, Noble 6, Gonzales 5, Cablay 4, Kong 3, Hontiveros 2, Lopez 1, Adriano 0, Racela 0.

Quarters: 19-17, 36-37, 64-57, 95-77



**MAIN MAN: Alaska's Reynel Hugnatan in file photo** ERIK ARAZAS

| STANDINGS | W | L |
|---|---|---|
| Toyota Otis | 10 | 4 |
| Montaña | 9 | 4 |
| G. Goose | 8 | 6 |
| R. or Shine | 7 | 6 |
| Magnolia | 6 | 7 |
| Harbour | 6 | 7 |
| TeleTech | 4 | 10 |
| Hapee | 4 | 10 |

**GAMES TODAY**
(*Olivarez Sports Center*)
2 p.m.—Montaña vs Harbour Centre
4 p.m.—R/Shine vs Magnolia

# Magnolia, Rain or Shine in vital tiff

IT HAS BECOME A SURPRISING TURN OF events for last conference's finalists.

While unlikely contenders have secured the top three seats, Rain or Shine and Magnolia face must-win situations at the end of the PBL Unity Cup elimination round today.

And while the prize isn't exactly an outright berth, it carries an edge that could virtually decide the two squads' title hopes.

The Elasto Painters and the Spinners will dispute the the No. 4 seed, which comes with the twice-to-beat advantage in the quarterfinals, at 4 p.m. today at the Olivarez Sports Center in Parañaque.

Toyota Otis and Montaña claimed the two outright semifinal berths after posting the best records, while Granny Goose copped third place and the first twice-to-beat edge in the quarterfinals.

Toting a better quotient, Rain or Shine still has the best shot to claim the quarterfinal incentive.

Yet the Spinners continue to hold out hope. If Magnolia wins by at least 12 points, it will claim the twice-to-beat advantage.

A three-way tie at 7-7 is also a possibility among Rain or Shine, Magnolia and Harbour Centre, which will tackle semifinalist Montaña at 2 p.m.

In such scenario, Rain or Shine will still finish fourth due to its superior quotient. But if the Painters lose by six points, the Spinners will occupy the fourth spot. *Jasmine W. Payo*

**MARLBORO COUNTRY: Philip Morris Phils. Manufacturing Inc. managing director Chris Nelson with the 50 finalists of the Marlboro Adventure Team (MAT) before the start of their two-day adventure training recently in a Tagaytay City camp. Five winners, chosen for their spirit of adventure, camaraderie, team play, attitude, and character, will be announced in a send-off party today at Le Pavilion Hall on Roxas Boulevard in Pasay City. The winners will represent the Philippines in the 2006 MAT in Moab, Utah.**

# Pan Asian jiu jitsu, grappling challenge gets going today

A CAST OF 100 EXPERTS FROM SOUTHEAST Asia and other Asian countries are seeing action in the Pan Asian International Brazilian Jiu Jitsu (BJJ) competition today and in the Pan Asian Grappling Challenge (No Gi) tomorrow at the San Andres Sports Complex in Manila. The two-day tournament, hosted by the Kamphuis-Machado Academy in cooperation with Manila Mayor Joselito Atienza and the Manila Sports Council headed by Ali Atienza, kicks off at 10:30 a.m. The Pan Asian event is expected to be the largest gathering of jiu jitsu and grappling practitioners in the region. Also expected to vie in the tournament are practitioners from Taiwan, South Korea, Hong Kong, Japan and Australia. Brazilian jiu jitsu is known for its fast-paced action and ground-fighting and techniques, said KMA head Stephen J. Kamphuis.

# RP junior netters bow to Chinese

THE PHILIPPINES LOST TO TOP SEED CHINA, 1-2, Friday and failed to advance to the World Junior Tennis Final. Akio Sy and Francis Casey Alcantara prevented a shutout for the seventh-seeded Filipino teenagers in the Asia-Oceania zonal qualifying tie at the Pusat Tennis Kemayoran court in Jakarta, Indonesia, by beating Bei Liu and Li Yucheng 7-6 (6), 2-1 (retired). Sy surrendered to Bei Liu, 1-6, 1-6, in the first singles before Alcantara, coming off a two-leg sweep of the Asian 14-Under Series in Sri Lanka, bowed to Liu Zhengyu, 1-6, 4-6. The Philippines will face fourth seed Chinese Taipei in the battle for fifth place on Saturday.

# Jaca goes for OPBF title tonight

By Salven L. Lagumbay
*Contributor*

TOKYO—CLAIMING HE HAS DONE everything in the gym, rising Filipino boxing star Jimrex Jaca clashes with Japan's Nobuhito Honmo today for the vacant Orient-Pacific Boxing Federation super featherweight crown at the Korakuen Stadium here.

Both fighters breezed through the scales at the Japan Boxing Commission in yesterday's weigh-in. Jaca, who has sparred 215 rounds for this fight, came in at 127.4 lb while the muscular Honmo weighed 129.6 lb.

Jaca, from Sibulan, Negros Oriental, goes into the fight armed with a 25-1-1 win-loss-draw slate with 12 KOs.

Honmo is ranked WBC No. 9 and boasts a 27-4-2 (5 KOs) record.

Solar Sports will telecast the fight live starting at 9 p.m

Jaca had ruled as the OPBF super-bantam division in 2004.

"He's in tremendous shape," said trainer Buboy Fernandez.

# You think you know Noli Eala? Read on

**IN HUDDLE**

*Beth Celis*

I USUALLY DON'T GET fazed or ruffled by cantankerous complaints regarding an item or piece I had written in my column. But when a raving PBA commissioner Noli Eala called the other day to bawl me out about two sentences I had written in my last column, I uncharacteristically took everything in stride, with nary a whimper. I merely purred like a timid kitten. I admit I was intimidated, probably because the vision of his clenched fist while he was having a shouting match with Benita Chua, a PBA fan, at the Araneta Coliseum after a game, was still fresh in my mind.

Noli was enraged over two sentences which, to me and most, were no big deal. He said I had no right to speculate that he had left the Ynares Center early last Sunday (missing the Tejada accident) because he was tired or that he had gone to Boracay to vacation.

"I wasn't tired. I don't get tired! I'm very strong! I'm as strong as the players (or did he say stronger?). I left early because it was Mother's Day, in case you didn't know, and my mother had requested that the whole family be together for dinner," he yelled, jarring my tympanic membranes.

"And for your information, I wasn't in Boracay for a vacation! I was there to actively participate in an international Dragonboat race. You wrote that it didn't help any that I wasn't at the venue at the time of the accident, what could have done? I am not a doctor!"

In fairness, I was told that the Purefoods people didn't really care too much about Noli's absence. What bothered them was the absence of a properly equipped ambulance which could have brought Eugene immediately to the hospital, to avoid much swelling and other complications.

Noli then gave me the third degree: "Who gave you all these information?" he demanded. I wondered what information he was talking about. "Tell me who your source is, because I'll find out anyway and I'm going to exterminate that rat!"

I told him it was unethical for a journalist to reveal his/her source. But I promised to give his side in my next column. His dark side, unfortunately.

* * *

**As for Eugene, the prognosis is very good, according to Purefoods governor Rene Pardo.**

**"Thank God, the operation went well," he sighed. Mang Pards informed us that Eugene will go into rehab as soon as he gets strong enough, to bring back his motor functions.**

**It took four doctors at the Makati Medical Center to perform the four-hour surgery: Dr. Dave Cabatan, spine specialist; Dr. Dindo Isabela, neurosurgeon; Dr. Sonny Odulio, orthopedic sports surgeon; and Dr. Fil Felix, anaesthesiologist.**

* * *

Mountainer Leo Oracion and teammate Pastor Emata, the first two Filipinos to reach the summit of Mount Everest, have pulled a big surprise on us.

While firmly focused on the Romi Garduce expedition which was closely monitored and chronicled by GMA-7, most of us didn't know about the duo's presence on the mountain until they were almost at the top.

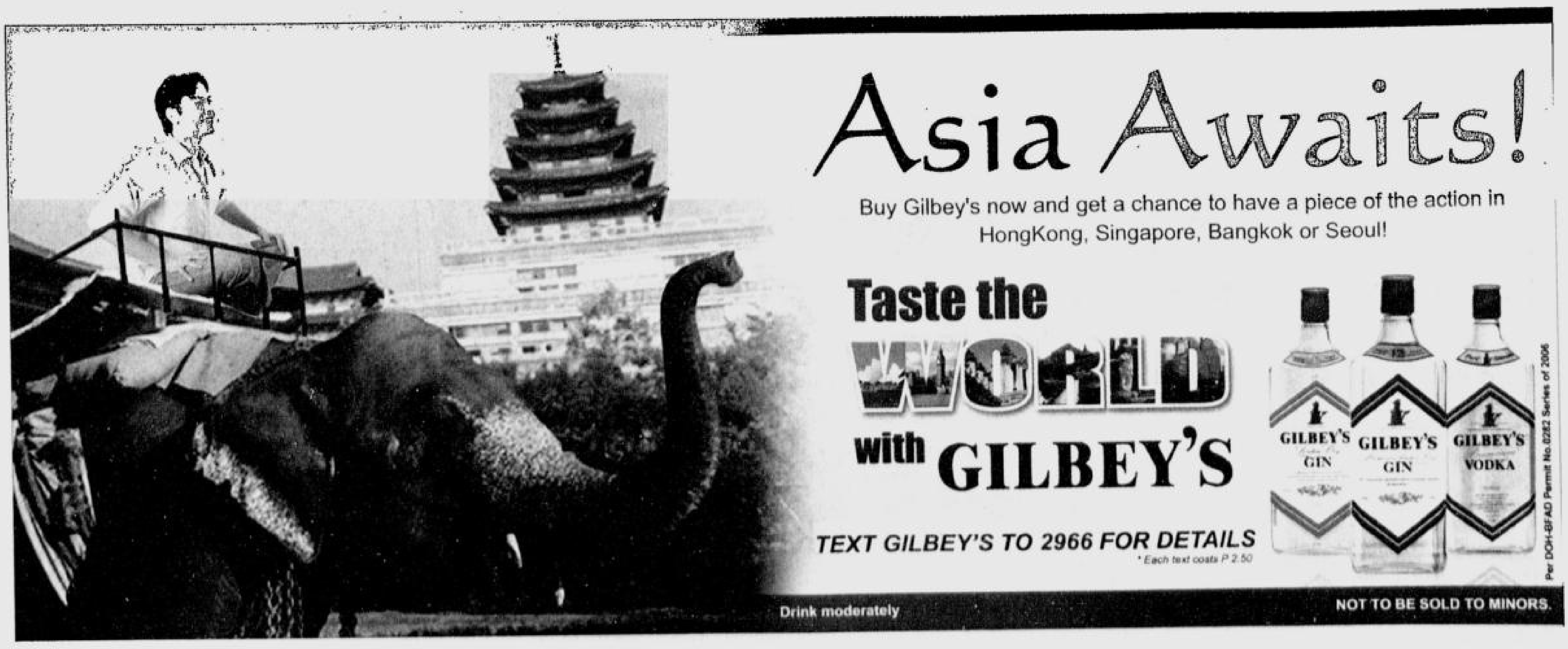
I wonder if the blackout had been intentional. The ABS-CBN-supported FPMEE (First Philippine Mount Everest Expedition), of which Oracion and Emata are members, was not scheduled to scale Everest until next year.

But here's the twist. The other night, Liza Abenojar, wife of Dale Abenojar, the fourth climber who had also aspired to summit Mount Everest, claimed on national television that it was her husband who had reached the Everest peak first.

Liza claimed her husband had communicated to her that he had completed the climb last Monday yet, way ahead of Oracion and Emata.

If this is true, the burden of proof is on Abenojar.

As it now appears, the Mount Everest expedition was a race to the top among Filipinos, after all.



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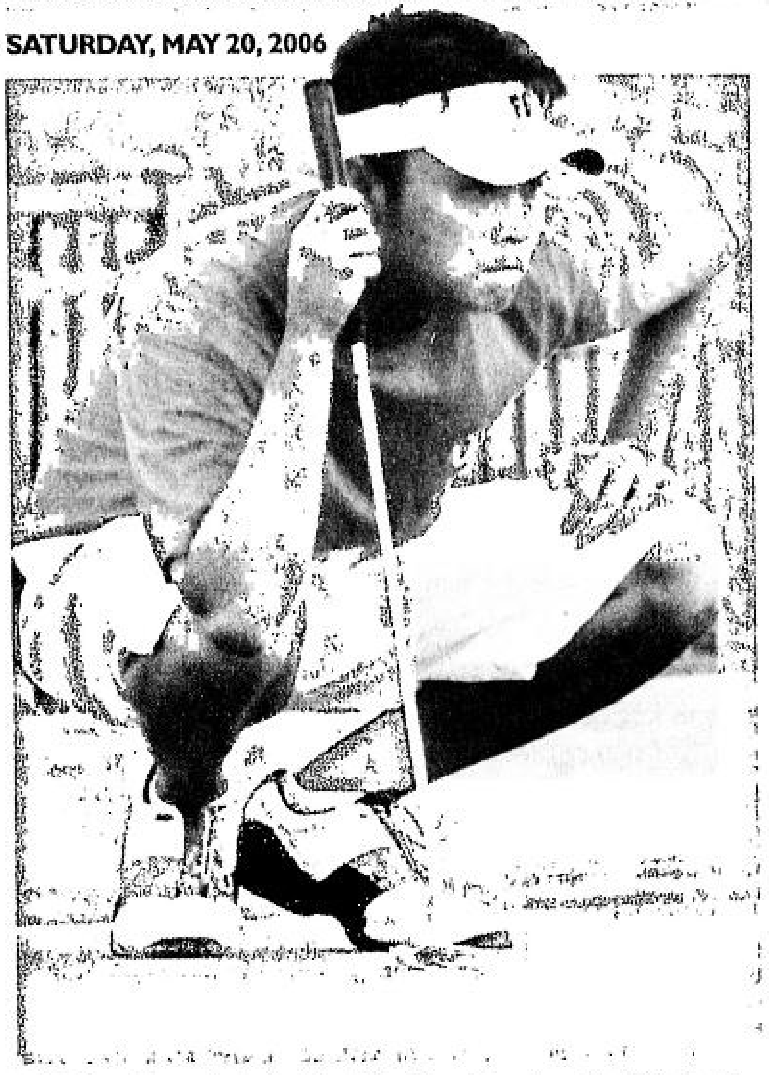


PARK Jong-Soo, playing for Eastridge, lines his putt on the 12 hole. He went on to beat Tagaytay Highlands' Tootsie de Jesus, 4 and 3. ERIK ARAZAS

# Korean expats rule nat'l tourney of club champs

By Jong Arcano

**GEN. TRIAS, CAVITE—PARK JONG-SOO AND Kwon Ye-seul made it an all-Korean show in the second National Tournament of Club Champions presented by Hong Kong Shanghai Banking Corp. and INQUIRER Golf when they bested their local foes in yesterday's finals at the Eagle Ridge Golf and Country Club here.**

The 27-year-old Park, playing for the Eastridge Golf Club of Binangonan, Rizal, halted the giant-killing run of Tootsie de Jesus, 4 and 3, their match taking a bizarre finish after the Tagaytay Highlands bet hit his own golf cart on the 15th hole for an automatic loss of hole.

The 15-year-old Kwon, playing for the host club, won 2-up in her duel with Vinice Godio, who carried the colors of Alabang and Sta. Elena, after another drama, this time on the last hole.

Their match went to the par-4 18th with the Korean teener leading by a hole. Although Godio sent an overclubbed 3-wood drive into the bunker, she had all the chance to forge a playoff with a par as the Korean was on a very difficult lie at the edge of the bunker.

KWON: 2-hole win

"Showtime," Godio whispered as she prepared for the most important bunker shot of her career, needing a good plop of about six feet.

Disgust came after the blast as Godio stayed in the bunker, the ball moving just a few feet from where she stood.

That mistake cleared the way for Kwon who won the hole with a bogey, setting off a celebration as Eagle Ridge personell lit fireworks at greenside.

Park and Kwon won trips to prestigious HSBC events in Wentworth, England, and New Jersey, United States, for their feats.

Godio and De Jesus each won a driver of their choice and a trip to a local destination.

It didn't help that De Jesus, who took up the game only 18 months ago but is now a 6-handicapper, seemed unfamiliar with match play rules.

Trying to save himself from getting dormie, De Jesus still had a chance as Park hit a long drive that landed in the hazard, and he had a playable lie in the bushes.

Rules official Caloy Coscolluela asked De Jesus to move his golf cart that was parked nearby, but he said it was alright.

A horror wood shot popped out of the tall grass and onto the cart.

Coscolluela later informed De Jesus about the infraction. Accepting his mistake, De Jesus congratulated a surprised Park.

Sponsors of the NTCC are Sta. Lucia Realty, Callaway as the official apparel, Isuzu the official vehicle, Titleist the official ball, PAL the official carrier, Chivas Regal, The Travel Club, Pacific Air Media and Microtel as official hotel. Platonic, the first locally assembled golf cart, was the hole-in-one sponsor.

# Bernis coasts to 4-shot Samsung Tour victory with 69

JUN BERNIS FIRED A SECOND STRAIGHT 3-UNder-par 69 yesterday to win the Samsung Amateur Golf Tour second leg by four shots over former series champion Kim Chang-hoi at the Summit Point and Country Club in Lipa City.

Bernis, the former national amateur champion and DHL Open winner in 2004, started the day a shot in front of Paul Echavez, who eventually struggled to a 73 and settled for third place.

Bernis gunned down six birdies, including three on the first four holes, on the way to nines of 34-35. His winning 282 total included rounds of 71 and 73.

Kim, the Korean expatriate, snatched runner-up honors with a tournament-best 68 for 286, a shot in front of the 17-year-old Echavez.

Ronnie Torrecampo carded a 74 and finished fourth with 296, followed by Rufino Bayron (72-297), Joseph Labajo (74-299), Lee Dong Geun (75-301), Chris delos Santos (73-302), Gino Bunyi (79-304) and Gary Sales (85-307).

Bernis thus joined Marvin Dumandan in the grand finals of this five-leg Tour backed by Taylor Made, C-Lium Fibre, Microtel, Titleist and Custom Clubmakers/KZG, Sunbolt.

Dumandan nipped Jay Bayron in a three-hole playoff to rule the kickoff leg in Baguio last month.

Meanwhile, Manfred Guangco rallied with a 74 for 149 to capture top honors in Class A. He beat Marco Olivers, who also carded a 74-152, by three shots, and first-day leader Yoon Sung Bin, who skied to an 80-153, by four.

Allan Alegre shot a 79, then nipped Raulito Zamora in a playoff to rule Class B. Alegre and Zamora, who had a 77, finished tied at 158, a shot ahead of first day leader Benny Hurtado who tripped with an 84-159, the same total of four placer Marlon Soriano (78).

# Bata battles Amang in Vegas Open

EFREN "BATA" REYES BOWED TO GERmany's Ralf Souquet, 9-11, in the fifth round yesterday and arranged an All-Filipino showdown with Jose "Amang" Parica in the 2006 Enjoypool.com 9-Ball Championship Open yesterday at the Riviera Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas, Nevada.

The California-based Parica, who lost in the fourth round to Johnny Archer, 11-8, bounced back into contention by nipping Satoshi Kawabata of Japan, 11-10, and Tony Robles of the US, 11-7, in the losers' bracket.

Souquet arranged a hot-seat match against fellow unbeaten Archer in the sixth round.

The winner of the match between Reyes and Parica will slug it out with Charlie Williams or American Mike Davis, whom Parica had beaten in the third round, 11-10.

In the fourth round's other featured matches, Williams upset defending champion Thorsten Hohmann of Germany, 11-10, while Souquet posted a similar 11-10 win over American Corey Deuel. *Marlon Bernardino, Contributor*

# Jetski series pits locals vs visitors

SUBIC—TWO RENOWNED INTERNATIONAL riders from Guam will test top Filipino jet skiers today in the second leg of the 2006 Petron National Jetski Series at the Waterfront Beach here.

Alex del Mundo and Ron Guyos, both jetski champs in Guam and veterans of the annual World Jet Ski Finals in Arizona, arrived last night and are expected to provide excitement in the Expert division.

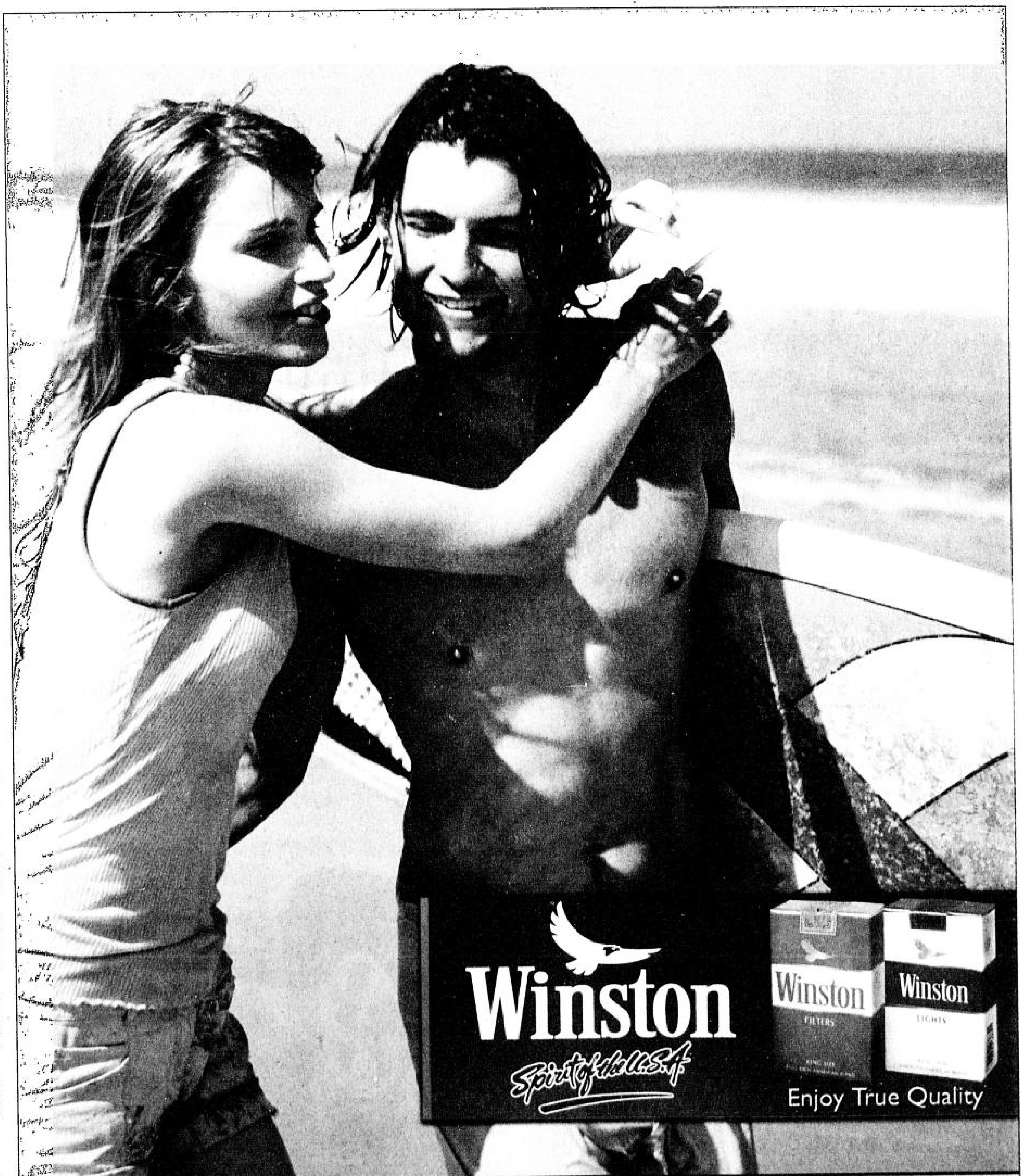
That field includes 1991 champion John Dee of Intex Marketing and Dev't Corporation, Thailand King's Cup veteran BJ Ang and World Jet Ski runner-up Paul del Rosario, who bagged three titles in the kickoff leg.

Also expected to gain attention are up-and-coming riders led by Dax Figueroa, Rommel Pineda, Butch Casido, Robbie David and Myk Mangio who will dispute the titles in the Novice division.

Active jet ski riders and new enthusiasts intending to compete in the national series can call up Networx Jetsports at tel. no. 413-3109 or may log on at www.networxjetsports.com.

## SJC derby slates 60 fights

BIGTIME COCKFIGHTING RESUMES AT THE SAN Juan Coliseum as a special 5-cock derby fires off at 4 p.m. today with some 60 quality fights on tap and with Sagupaan Complexor 3000 as main backer. Upcoming derbyist Tony Antonio, son of *sabong* idol Patrick Antonio, will host the derby which drew participants from prestigious cockers organizations. According to Antonio, aficionados can expect a rare battle of bets from the Cagayan Cockers Group, Gentlemen Cockers Association of the Philippines, National Cockers Association and Pasay Cockpit Cockers Association. For other details, please call 725-5369 or 0917-8041691. Meanwhile, the Handlers Cup 4-cock derby is also slated at SJC on Monday, May 22.



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Cigarette smoking is dangerous to your health.

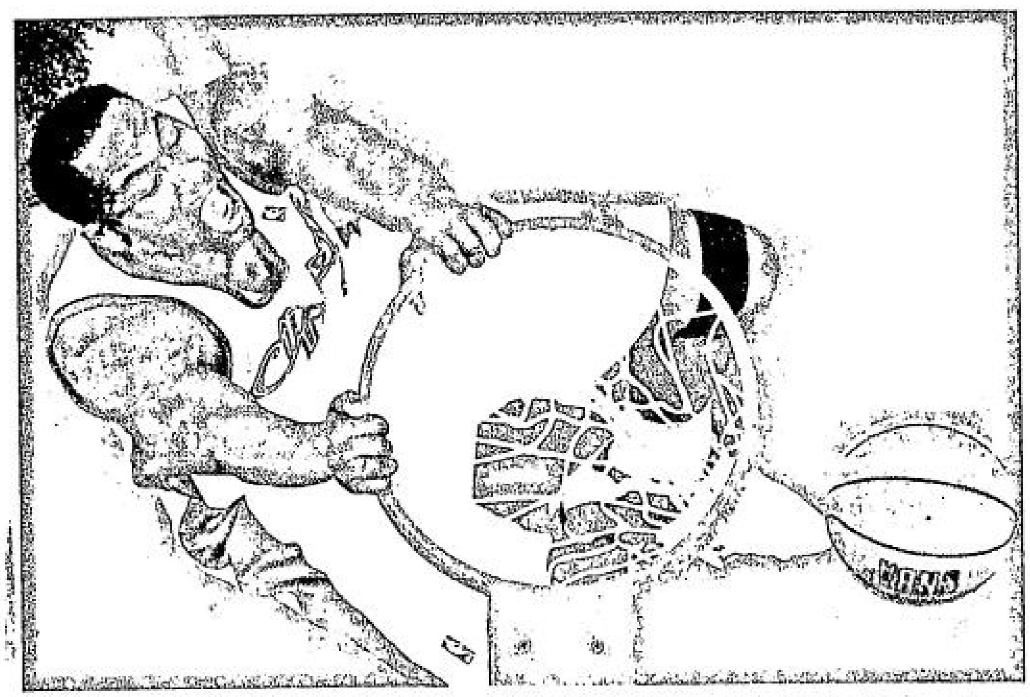
## SPORTS

# Clippers sail past Suns

## Brand shines as Los Angeles forces Game 7

**PHOENIX** superstars Shawn Marion (left), Steve Nash (center) and Leandro Barbosa are left stumped in Los Angeles.

AP REUTERS AP



**ELTON** Brand slams home two points for the Los Angeles Clippers. The former Duke University star came up with a solid double-double to help force a deciding game. AP

**LOS ANGELES—THE LOS ANGELES CLIPPERS CONtinued their surprising season with a 118-106 win over the Phoenix Suns on Thursday to level their Western Conference second-round playoff series at 3-3.**

Clippers power forward Elton Brand had another outstanding game, scoring 30 points, grabbing 12 rebounds, and blocking five shots. His performance was complemented by Corey Maggette, who scored 25 points, built around a 7-of-8 shooting from the floor.

Los Angeles scored at a blistering pace, passing the 100-point mark when Maggette sank a three-point jumper with 8:54 remaining in the fourth quarter.

The Clippers shot 61.5 percent from the field, while the Suns made 43.7 percent of their shots, led by Shawn Marion with 34 points.

In Tuesday's Game Five, Maggette only managed eight points in 17 minutes on the field.

"I just needed some minutes. I got more opportunity to show what I can do," Maggette told reporters.

Maggette did not start Thursday's game but his performance kept him on the floor for 27 minutes.

Brand, who like Maggette played at Duke, hit on 14-of-21 field goals.

Three other Clippers scored in double digits, including point guard Sam Cassell with 15, center Chris Kaman with 15, and forward Quinton Ross with 18.

"We just couldn't stop them," Suns coach Mike D'Antoni said.

After two extended series with the Los Angeles Lakers and now the Clippers, D'Antoni said he was happy for the break.

"A game in Phoenix with three days rest, I don't think we can ask for anything more," D'Antoni said.

Five Suns players scored in double figures, including guard Leandro Barbosa, who did not start but tallied 25 points on 10-of-20 shooting including 4-of-8 from three-point range.

Guard Steve Nash scored 17 points on 6-of-16 shooting and he had 11 assists.

Raja Bell scored 13 points and shot only 2-of-9 from the field two nights after his last-second shot in Game Five saved the Suns. Center Boris Diaw scored 14 points.

The Clippers turned a 37-45 mark in 2004-05 to reach the second round of the NBA playoffs, further than the team has ever been in its 36-year history. In the 35 years before this season's 45-37 record, the Clippers had won only 36 percent of their games.

Clippers vice president and NBA legend Elgin Baylor was named executive of the year before the game. *Reuters*

- **NBA on TV**

SOLAR SPORTS—San Antonio vs. Dallas (10 a.m. live)

ESPN—San Antonio vs Dallas (9:30 a.m. live, 8:30 p.m. reply)

### Batangas hosts second drag race leg

ROSARIO, BATANGAS—THE COUNTRY'S TOP dragsters battle it out in the 2006 Red Horse-PCSO National Drag Racing Championship second leg today at the Batangas Racing Circuit Drag Strip. Some 60 cars, led by Dave Jota of Blanche Racing, will be vying for the titles at stake. Jota looks forward to another record breaking run as he guns for his second straight win in the premiere Quick 8 division. In the last leg, Jota broke his own record four times before establishing the new record time of 11.58 in the Quick 8 Finals against Mico Vinadao. Jota will also compete in the Pro Class where he'll be going up against Drag Racing Driver of the Year Leo Joel Cordero and kickoff leg champion Conrado Estrada of Team Ready-Ado Motor in this event sponsored by Red Horse Beer, Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office and supported by Pilipinas Shell, Denso, Yokohama, Casino Filipino and Sparco. Cordero aims to redeem lost esteem after a disappointing stint last month. Registration will only be until 9 a.m. today before the competition proper starts at 9:30. Participants may call (632) 8172241, 7295365 or fax 8151241 for details.

# SSC, PCU seek semis slots

SAN SEBASTIAN AND PHILIPPINE Christian University gun for the last two semifinal berths as they take on University of the East and Lyceum, respectively, in the penultimate elimations playdate in the Shakey's V-League at the Blue Eagle Gym.

Tied at fourth place on 3-3 slates, the Lady Stags hope to advance against the ousted Lady Warriors at 4 p.m. while the Lady Dolphins eye a berth in the semis against the Lady Pirates at 6 p.m.

PCU, however, is expected to encounter stiff resistance from Lyceum, the only other team with an outside chance for the fifth and last semis berth.

With a 2-3 (win-loss) card, the Muralla-based spikers need to sweep their last two games to advance in this tournament presented by Shakey's Pizza and backed by Accel, Mikasa, ABC-5 and ABC Sports.

A win by Lyceum today coupled with a victory over Ateneo, also out of it all with a 1-5 card, on Monday would clinch it the fifth and last spot in the double-round semifinals.

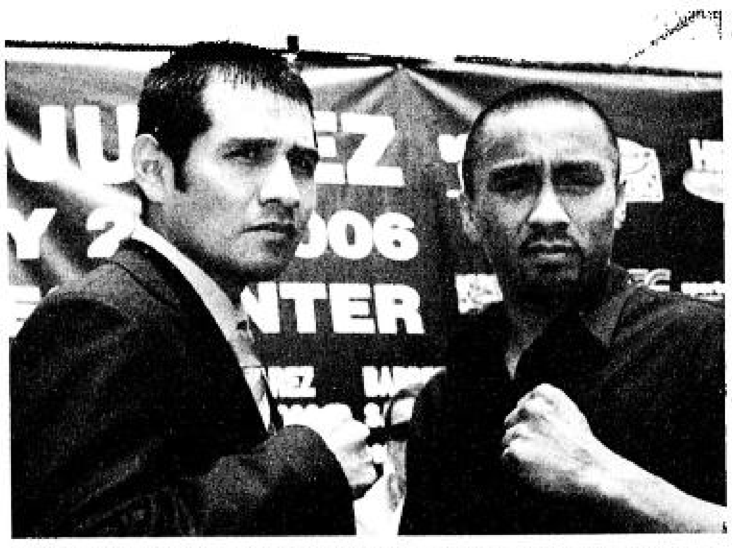
"We're definitely going for a win," said Lyceum coach Emil Lontoc, who steered the RP women's squad to the country's last Southeast Asian Games crown in the 1993 Singapore Games, in Filipino.

Focus will also be on San Sebastian, hot on a trail of a stirring three-game romp after dropping its first three assignments.

That streak included a pulsating come-from-behind win over Ateneo last Monday.

| STANDINGS | W | L |
|---|---|---|
| De La Salle | 6 | 0 |
| Adamson | 5 | 1 |
| FEU | 4 | 3 |
| PCU | 3 | 3 |
| SSC | 3 | 3 |
| Lyceum | 2 | 3 |
| Ateneo | 1 | 5 |
| UE | 0 | 6 |

**GAMES TODAY**
(*Blue Eagle Gym*)
4 p.m.—San Sebastian vs. UE
6 p.m.—PCU vs. Lyceum



**TITLE MATCH:** Marco Antonio Barrera (left) and Ricardo "Rocky" Juarez pose at a pre-fight news conference in Los Angeles. The pair will battle for the WBC super featherweight world championship at the Staples Center in Los Angeles on Saturday. AP

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# SATURDAY Special

Text us your feedback: inquirer sat name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

### 'AMERICAN IDOL'

# Katharine, Taylor gear up for ultimate showdown

By Nestor U. Torre

LAST THURSDAY, THE "FINAL two" of the 2006 "American Idol" singing search were announced: Taylor Hicks and Katharine McPhee.

It was a sad *adieu* for Elliott Yamin, the third surviving finalist, but the viewer-voters' verdict could not be disputed. After a brief period of sniffling over what might have been, the show's attention shifted back to next week's "ultimate showdown" between Katharine and Taylor.

## Talent and heart

What made them win the viewing and voting public over to their side? Last Wednesday, the tilt's top three each sang three songs with all the talent and heart they could manage.

To our mind, Katharine did best of all, thanks to juror Simon Cowell (of all people), who suggested that she should sing "Somewhere Over the Rainbow" as one of her three showcase numbers.

Cowell has been rather critical of Katharine throughout the competition, so his helpful suggestion was ironically inspired, and helped her come up with a simple yet felt interpretation that boosted her stock with listeners.

For his part, Elliott was hampered by less than inspired song choices.

As for Taylor, he gained points because he showed another, less idiosyncratic side to his talent.

In fact, in a couple of his songs, he came across *sort of* like a younger version of George Clooney. —Not bad for a gonzo, goony guy from the South.

## Cliffhanger

This week's penultimate competition was a real cliffhanger, because only fractions of a point separated the survivors from the ejectee—the votes were 33.06, 33.26 and 33.68!

Next week's "final-final" showdown between Taylor and Katharine can be expected to be similarly close, because this week's voting pattern suggests that the finalists' fans have already decided to go all the way in supporting their respective favorites, hence the "by a nose" victories for Katharine and Taylor last Thursday.

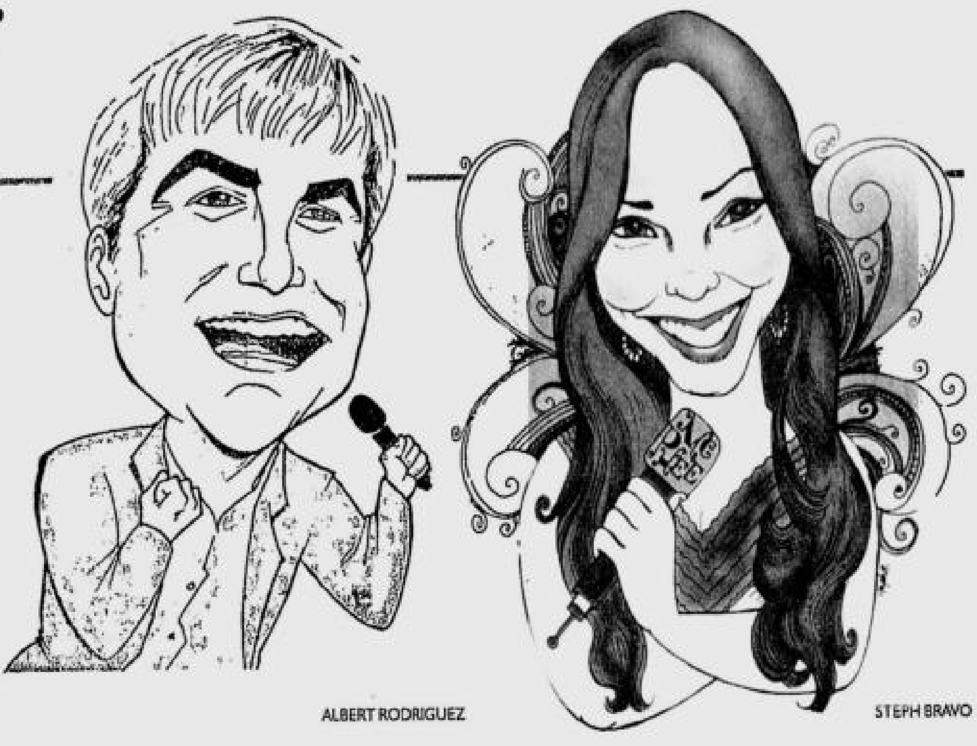
Of course, some of Elliott's fans will opt to shift their votes to either of the two remaining finalists, so this could tip the balance in favor of next week's ultimate winner and official 2006 American Idol.

And who would *that* be? Throughout the months-long competition, Taylor appears to have done consistently well in terms of votes pulled, while Katharine has had her share of ups and downs. So, perhaps Taylor has an edge?

## Frontrunner

*But*, Katharine surprised everyone last week when she scored better than frontrunner and perennial favorite Chris Daughtry, so it could very well be that her fan base has of late consolidated into a strong and loyal force that could enable her to score another major upset next week!

What do *you* think?



ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

STEPH BRAVO

**HICKS AND MCPHEE.** Gifted, charismatic and gutsy "final survivors."

# *There's more to Josh Lucas than 'beauty' and brawn*

By Rito P. Asilo

**LUCAS.** Passion and drive.

WHEN WE INTERVIEWED Josh Lucas recently to talk about his latest movie, Wolfgang Petersen's "Poseidon," we were pleasantly surprised to discover that there was more to the blond and blue-eyed actor than his brooding good looks and sex appeal: Honesty and a sense of humor.

## Perfunctory

But, it was only after the perfunctory Q&A about his latest film that the actor started to loosen up. Soon thereafter, we had a blast talking about his past films, his co-actors, the theater, career choices—even hilarious and strange encounters with overly anxious fans!

At an early age, Josh had learned to appreciate the anti-nuke activism of his parents, although the family's constant transfers—30 times before he reached the age of 13!—had not given him a sense

THERE'S/ A2-4

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1 DA VINCI CODE • THX
12:30 3:40 6:50 10:00

2 DA VINCI CODE
12:00 3:10 6:20 9:30

3 DA VINCI CODE
11:30 2:40 5:50 9:00

4 MISSION IMPOSSIBLE 3

5 OVER THE HEDGE

6 DA VINCI CODE
12.15 3:25 6:35 9:45

7 POSEIDON
12:10 2:35 5:00 7:25 9:50

8 DA VINCI CODE
11:45 2:55 6:05 9:15

9 DA VINCI CODE
2:25 5:35 8:45

10 OVER THE HEDGE

### ERMITA
536-7809 to 12

1 DA VINCI CODE
10:30 1:40 4:50 8:00

2 POSEIDON
12:00 2:00 4:00 6:00 8:00 10:00

3 DA VINCI CODE
12:30 3:40 6:50 10:00

4 DA VINCI CODE
11:30 2:40 5:50 9:00

5 DA VINCI CODE
12:30 3:40 6:50 10:00

6 OVER THE HEDGE
10:20 12:20 2:20 4:20 6:20 8:25 9:50

7 MISSION IMPOSSIBLE 3
10:50 1:35 4:20 7:05 9:50

### METRO EAST
682-8193 • 682-8199

1 OVER THE HEDGE

2 DA VINCI CODE
11:00 2.00 5:00 8:00

3 DA VINCI CODE
11:00 2:00 5:00 8:00

4 POSEIDON

5 DA VINCI CODE
1:00 4:00 7:00

6 DA VINCI CODE
12.00 3:00 6:00 9.00

7 DA VINCI CODE
12:00 3:00 6:00 9:00

8 MISSION IMPOSSIBLE 3

### NOVALICHES
935-3231 / 935-3229-30

1 DA VINCI CODE
2 DA VINCI CODE
3 DA VINCI CODE
4 OVER THE HEDGE
5 POSEIDON
6 MISSION IMPOSSIBLE 3

### CITISQUARE MALABON
288-2575

1 DA VINCI CODE
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3 RESERVE
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5 MISSION IMPOSSIBLE 3

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3 POSEIDON
4 OVER THE HEDGE

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3 OVER THE HEDGE
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5 MISSION IMPOSSIBLE 3
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6 MISSION IMPOSSIBLE 3

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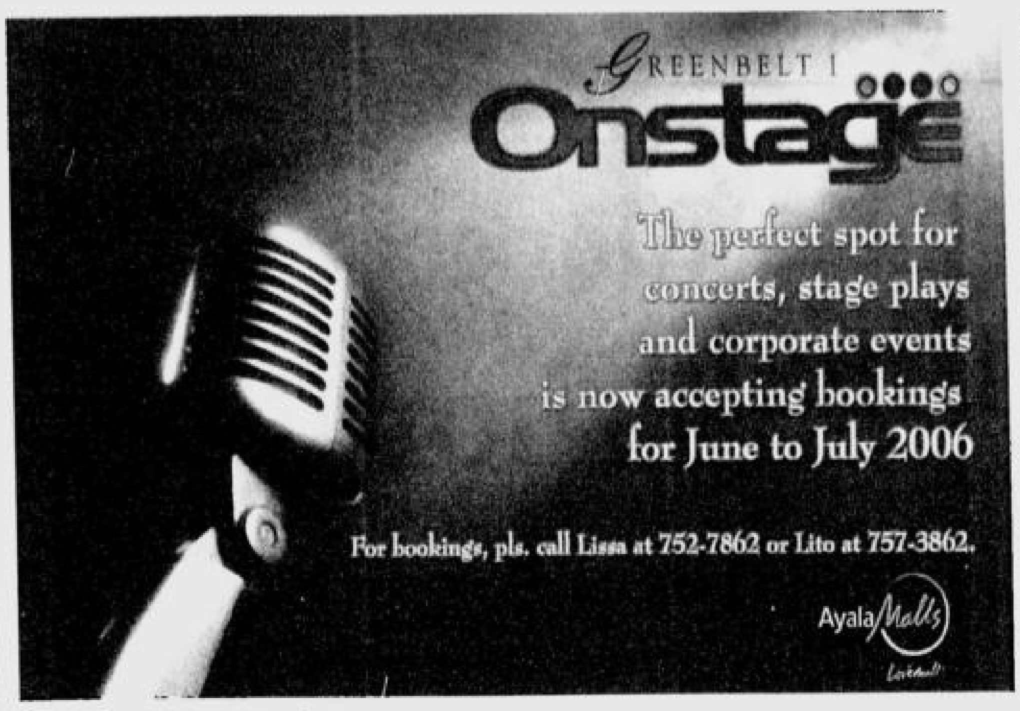

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3 (DOLBY) DA VINCI CODE R18
4 (DOLBY) OVER THE HEDGE GP

PREMIERE

(DOLBY) POSEIDON PG13

### Cinema 2000 Waltermart Makati
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Tel 816.4214 / 816.4216

1 DA VINCI CODE
2 DA VINCI CODE
3 OVER THE HEDGE
4 POSEIDON

### starmall EDSA-SHAW
(Mandaluyong) tel. 7266160

3 MISSION IMPOSSIBLE-3
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL EX) DA VINCI CODE
5 POSEIDON

### metropolis star cinema
www.clickthecity.com.ph
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1 POSEIDON
2 MISSION IMPOSSIBLE-3
3 DA VINCI CODE
4 OVER THE HEDGE

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NE Pacific Mall Cabanatuan.
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3 (DTS) MISSION IMPOSSIBLE-3
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4 VISIBLE SECRET

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2 MISSION IMPOSSIBLE-3
3 OVER THE HEDGE

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2 POSEIDON

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2 OVER THE HEDGE
3 (DTS ES) POSEIDON
4 MISSION IMPOSSIBLE-3

### Centre Plaza Cinema
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1 MISSION IMPOSSIBLE-3
2 THE SENTINEL

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4 (DOLBY) POSEIDON

### CINEMA 2000
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### Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

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2 (DTS) MISSION IMPOSSIBLE-3
3 (DOLBY) DA VINCI CODE
4 OVER THE HEDGE

### Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) tel. (049) 4111146

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3 (DTS) OVER THE HEDGE
4 POSEIDON

### Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
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1 MISSION IMPOSSIBLE-3
2 DA VINCI CODE
3 (DOLBY) SENTINEL

### Cinema 2000 Metrotown
(Tarlac) tel (045) 982.1729

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2 DA VINCI CODE
3 (DOLBY) MISSION IMPOSSIBLE-3
4 (DTS) POSEIDON

### Cinema 2000 Waltermart
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1 POSEIDON
2 DA VINCI CODE
3 (DOLBY) MISSION IMPOSSIBLE-3

### Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Gapan)

1 POSEIDON
2 DA VINCI CODE

### Lianas Cinema
(Pasig) tel 640.4748

1 FINAL DESTINATION
2 MURDER

### Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276

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2 KIRIDA
3 FINAL DESTINATION
4 (DTS) HAUNTED SPIRIT-2

### Lianas MovieCity
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1 (DOLBY) DA VINCI CODE
2 APOY SA DIBDIB NG SAMAR
3 (DTS) POSEIDON
4 MISSION IMPOSIBLE-3
5 OVER THE HEDGE

### Fiesta World Mall
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2 POSEIDON
3 DA VINCI CODE
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In celebration, Starmall and its sister outfit, Metropolis Star Alabang in Muntinlupa City, are offering pre-loaded cinema passes, good for two months from date of purchase. For P500, a moviegoer can make 10 visits to the cinema. Call Starmall Cinemas at 726-6150 or Metropolis Star Cinemas at 850-4285.

**FOSTER.** Co-stars with Denzel Washington in hostage drama.

### 'Inside Man'

Detective Keith Frazier (Denzel Washington) and Madeline White (Jodie Foster), a powerbroker with a hidden agenda, match wits in the new film, "Inside Man," a tense hostage drama directed by the acclaimed Spike Lee. The film opens on June 7.

### Mall tour

Soapdish and Protein Shake perform cuts from their albums back-to-back today at Robinsons Novaliches, tomorrow at Robinsons Lipa, on May 28 at Robinsons Angeles, June 3 at Robinsons Pampanga, and June 11 at Robinsons Imus.

### Movies on TV

On HBO, May 20 at 9 p.m., "Assault on Precinct 13." May 21 at 11 a.m., "Shrek 2." May 22 12:45 p.m., "The Witches of Eastwick." May 23 at 6:30 a.m., "A Soldier's Story." May 24 at 8:15 a.m., "The Sea Wolves." May 25 at 3:30 p.m., "The Bonfire of the Vanities." May 26 at 8:15 a.m., "Men Don't Leave."

On Cinemax, May 20 at 9 p.m., "Bean." May 21 at 4:35 p.m., "Sleepers." May 22 at 11 p.m., "The Outlaw Josey Wales." May 23 at 2:45 p.m., "Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind." May 24 at 6:25 p.m., "20,000 Leagues Under the Sea." May 25 at 6 a.m., "The Guns of Navarone." May 26 at 8:10 a.m., "The Trouble with Harry."

## Meet…

From page A2-3

reflect extensive travels, experiences, keen observation and perception."

Today, she opens her restored ancestral home to students, so that their young minds can appreciate the honor and distinction she has brought to Batac and to her nation.

Singapore's "The Eastern Star" notes that, for the Grandma Moses of Batac, "life with its complexities bears its fair share of burden on the deep recesses of Lucia's mind, soul and spirit."

# Meet Batac's Grandma Moses

**By Behn Cervantes**

BUT, THE COUNTRY should know you!" Napoleon "Billy" Abueva, National Artist for the Visual Arts, stated when Lucia Mangapit Valdez demurred from holding an exhibit of her paintings in Manila.

**VALDEZ. Keen observation and perception.**

After all, the 88-year-old widow of career diplomat Casimiro Marcos Valdez has held exhibits of her works in London, Singapore, Indonesia, New Zealand and Germany.

## Distinct honor

In fact, Valdez has the distinct honor of being accepted as a nonmember exhibitor in London galleries.

Paul Douglas, former president of the American University in Washington, DC, cites "her versatility of media, whether oil, chalk or watercolor, and her citizenship (which finds expression in her sincerity and outreach) are reflected in her painting called "Hope."

A Die Welt art critic once exclaimed: "Lucia Mangapit Valdez brought the feeling of summer to our very cold winter!" The critic praised Valdez's capacity for expression because "the artist is never at a loss for variations in her motives, techniques and means."

The proud Ilokana dabbled in painting early on. She graduated from the University of Manila in 1937, but "I wanted to know if I could be an artist." So, from 1948 to 1951, she studied painting under Jack Turkow and Sarah Baker at the American University, where she pursued a degree in Fine Arts.

## Diplomat

In 1948, she married her diplomat husband, who constantly encouraged her artistic aspirations

She also became a friend and associate of National Artist for Theater, Severino Montano.

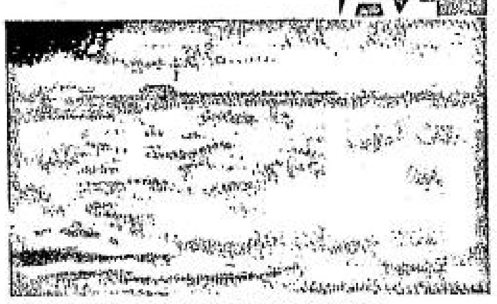
Angela Valdez Timtiman proudly declares, "Auntie Lucing is a wealth of information on Ilokano history."

"Auntie Lucing is knowledgeable about regional folklore, music, Ilokano literature and art forms," Angela also shares. "And she can provide vital information on pre-war cosmopolitan churches in Manila."

Auntie Lucing remembers the dangerous years, when she would smuggle goods and medical supplies to the captured American missionary, Mary Stagg.

The Manila Chronicle writes: "Her works

MEET/ A2-2



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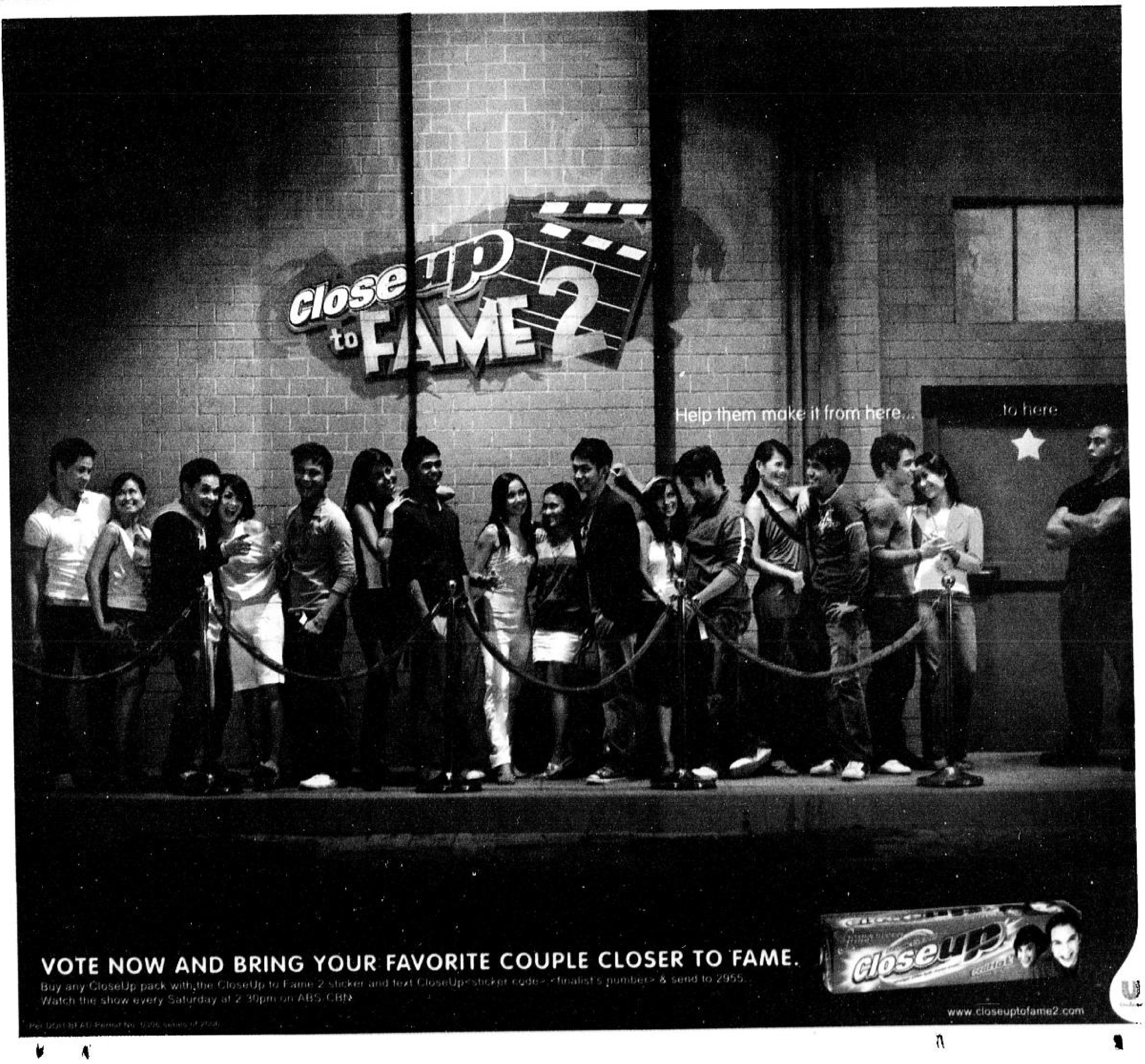

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# There's more to Josh Lucas…

From page A2-1

of stability. Result? He became an actor!

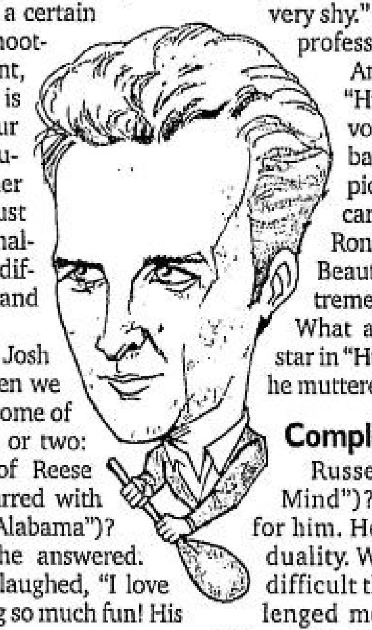
He believes in fighting a good fight, but as he explained, "I practice my activism a little more differently—and more quietly than they did. I redirect my passion and drive to improving myself as a person."

Understandably, Lucas' introspective demeanor translates to his choice of film projects—from the box-office hit, "Glory Road," to the flawed characters he played in "Undertow," "The Deep End," "Wonderland," "Alive" and "Hulk."

## Legitimate stage

He even tried the legitimate stage (Tennessee Williams' "The Glass Menagerie," with Jessica Lange), although, admittedly, his rare stint on Broadway last year was a love-hate affair.

He explained: "Performing to a live audience every night can be magical, but the downside is, there are nights when you *just* don't want to do it! It's not just a case of the nerves, but a certain kind of exhaustion. Shooting a movie is different, because the film crew is not there to judge your performance. A live audience, on the other hand, is there to do just that! It's a unique challenge that requires a different kind of energy and stamina."



On a lighter note, Josh gamely acquiesced when we asked him to describe some of his co-stars in a word or two: What did he think of Reese Witherspoon (who starred with him in "Sweet Home Alabama")? "Funny and tough," he answered. Patrick Dempsey? He laughed, "I love Patrick. He's just having so much fun! His passion is raising cars."

Robert Redford ("An Unfinished Life")? "He's very quiet and, actually, very shy." Jennifer Lopez? "Wildly professional and self-driven."

Ang Lee (director of "Hulk")? "He's my favorite!" Was Lee's "Brokeback Mountain" his best picture bet at the recent Oscar derby? "Absolutely!" Ron Howard (director of "A Beautiful Mind")? "He's an extremely talented man-child." What about Eric Bana (his co-star in "Hulk")? After a brief pause, he muttered, "Australian."

## Complex duality

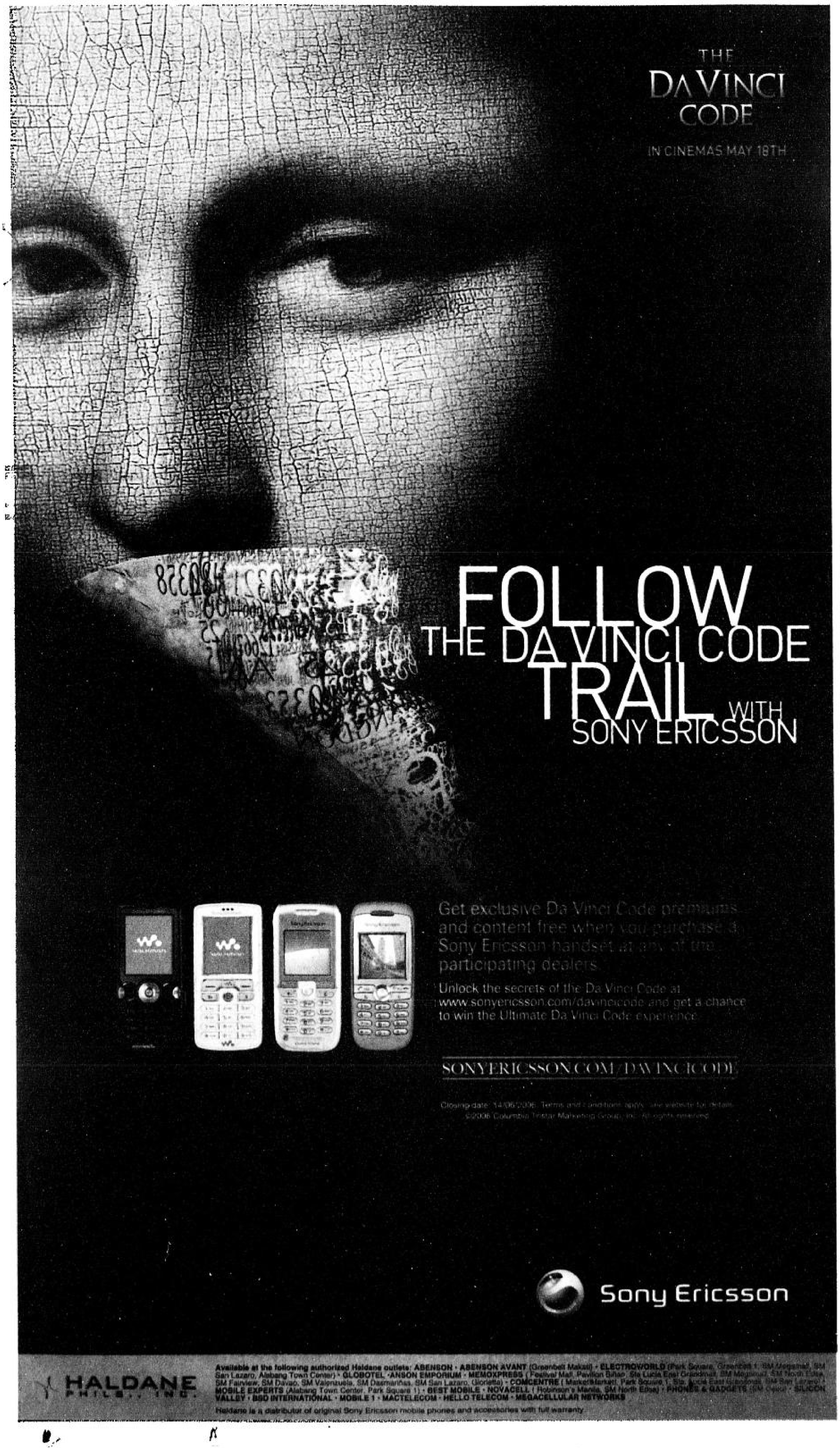
Russell Crowe ("A Beautiful Mind")? "I have great respect for him. He is filled with complex duality. We went through a lot of difficult things together, he challenged me so much. He pushed and made me better." Sean Penn ("The Weight of Water")? "Brilliant, psychological person."

What did he think of the award ("best kiss") given to him and Reese by the Teens Choice Awards for their on-screen smooch in "Sweet Home Alabama"? He shared, "That was strange. I didn't learn about the award until about six months ago—and we shot the movie in 2002! But, you know what I thought? 'I'm an award-winning actor…finally!' (*Laughs*)"

## Fan encounter

Any strange fan encounter? Josh recalled: "My sister and I walked into the lobby of an office building. When the lady behind the information desk looked up, she stared at me, turned to my sister, looked back at me—and screamed! Then, she passed out! I got scared, to say the least. When she woke up, she kept saying: 'I love you!' But, I was just glad she was alright!"

But, *really*, can you blame the poor woman?



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**LOTUS POND**

*R. Valencia and S. Bismark*

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Here are tips taken from "My Little Book of Proverbs," edited by A. Artus:

- He who does not look ahead remains behind. (Spanish proverb)
- He who never begins, never ends. (Abruzzi)
- If you want to reach the goal quickly, don't just sit on the roadside. (Livonian)
- It is not enough for a man to know how to ride, he must know how to fall. (Mexican)
- No matter how far you have gone on a wrong road, turn back. (Turkish)
- He who does not advance, recedes. (Latin)
- Pray to God, but keep rowing to the shore. (Russian)
- No one was ever lost on a straight road. (Indian)

## Mountains

- Men trip not on mountains; they stumble over stones. (Indian)
- Trust in Allah, but tie your camel. (Muslim)
- Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding: In all your ways, acknowledge Him, and He will make your path straight. (Proverbs 3:4-5)

May these words of wisdom strengthen our determination to pursue the true purpose of life: To go back home to our Best Friend and Supreme Beloved.

The road may be difficult, but He will be there to assist if you humbly submit to His plans.

As Jagad Guru Siddhaswarupananda Paramahamsa muses: "If you take one step toward the Supreme Being, He will take a hundred steps toward you."

# Breaking musical barriers

**STREET SMART**

*Mandy Navasero*

NEW YORK-RAISED Puerto Rican artist Tito Nieves has achieved what other musicians can only dream about—global acclaim.

Nieves' career spans a lifetime of accomplishments. At 15, he knew what his calling was: Music.

The multi-awarded singer has broken barriers with his versatility and crossover appeal.

Alongside salsa luminaries like Tito Puente, Celia Cruz and Hector Lavoe, Tito helped revolutionize what is now called tropical music.

Nieves has, indeed, made his mark on the international music scene.

## Achievements

His achievements include awards as singer of the year (1994), video of the year (1996) for "No Me Vuelvo Enamorar," and artist of the year in 1997. In 1998, Tito received a nomination for his "Clase Aparte" album. In 1999, he was awarded the Globo Award for best tropical singer, then he copped a Grammy nomination for best salsa album in 2000.

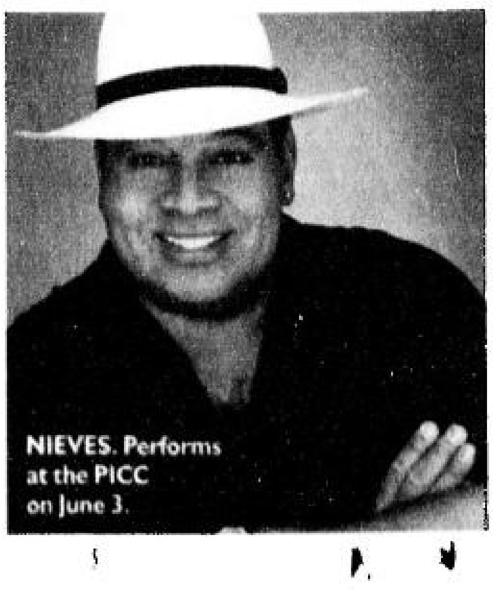
Tito remains true to his love for music. His songs are timeless and classy, and appeal to a wide market of listeners.

His latest album "Hoy Mañana y Siempre," is a collaborative effort with Grammy-winning producer Sergio George. This time, the tracks are a potpourri of Latin, hip-hop, rap and reggae.

Now is your chance to experience the music of Tito Nieves: On June 3, he will perform in "Tito Nieves… Live in Manila!" at the PICC Reception Hall with a 16-piece band from Florida.

Call 896-9939 or TicketWorld at 891-8911.

*E-mail us at mandynavasero@yahoo.com.*



**NIEVES.** Performs at the PICC on June 3.

# SATURDAY Special

NOW SHOWING

# Hanks, Howard crack a contentious 'Code'

TAUTOU AND HANKS. Team up to uncover the "secrets" behind Leonardo Da Vinci's paintings.

By Rito P. Asilo

**"The Da Vinci Code"**

D: Ron Howard

S: Tom Hanks, Audrey Tautou, Ian McKellen, Paul Bettany, Alfred Molina

HOW STRONG IS YOUR FAITH? IF YOU meet the last living descendant of Jesus Christ, are you willing to do anything—even commit murder—to protect it?

If you are easily swayed by conspiracy theories similar to those cooked up by Oliver Stone ("JFK") or Chris Carter ("The X-Files"), then watching the big-screen adaptation of Dan Brown's controversial book is like opening the proverbial Pandora's box. But, let's get things straight, "The Da Vinci Code" is a well-spun yarn of pulp fiction, made more engaging by man's natural affinity to his spirituality and religion.

When Harvard symbologist Robert Langdon (Tom Hanks) is summoned by the French police after a curator at the Louvre is found dead inside the museum, he—along with French cryptologist Sophie Neveu (Audrey Tautou of "Amelie"), estranged granddaughter of the fallen man—uncovers a trail of clues hidden in the paintings of Leonardo Da Vinci.

But, the "secrets" the pair unravels don't just lead to answers about the murdered man and his assassin, Silas (Paul Bettany). They reveal unsettling details about the humanity of Jesus Christ: From the damning stories culled from the apocryphal gospels of Philip and Mary Magdalene, and the rituals (cilices, etc.) that the staunchly religious undergo, to the shadowy—as they're portrayed in the film—characters behind the secretive, ultra-conservative Roman Catholic faction, Opus Dei. As Robert and Sophie unlock one can of worms after another, they increasingly expose themselves to nefarious characters who will stop at nothing to protect their interests.

Producer Brian Grazer makes the wise decision of hiring the services of the well-respected Hanks and the nonconfrontational Ron Howard, a master storyteller who's adept at weaving high-concept stories and spectacles, to bring the controversial tale to the movie screen.

As it is, the production is already under fire for its preposterous—okay, heretical—views about one of history's most influential figures. But, Howard knows his medium, and has yet to fail at delivering movies that don't just provoke, but entertain as well. The story proposes a disturbingly revisionist view that undermines the basic tenets of Christianity—*that* alone makes it controversial. We're tempted to discuss them, *but* we won't spoil the fun for you.

Moreover, the rest of the plot involves theories and assumptions that are hard to ignore: From the mythical Holy Grail to the "real" identity of Mary Magdalene.

Like Martin Scorsese's "The Last Temptation of Christ," which posited another controversial assumption about the relationship of Jesus and Mary Magdalene, Howard's film will continue to generate debate about the quality of the film *and* the assertions it makes.

Surely, if Mel Gibson had to endure a lot of brickbats for his largely faithful but otherwise violently graphic depiction of the crucifixion of Jesus, how much more a story that questions the very foundation of Christianity?

The movie, which features fine performances from Hanks, Tautou, Bettany, Jean Reno and Ian McKellen, benefits from Howard's deft handling of its sensitive material. Its tone, though, is a tad more serious than we expected—and the film is a little too long, but it delivers engaging entertainment just the same.

However, if the controversy surrounding the movie drives the spiritually distant and ambivalent youth of today to commence a discourse about God, morality and organized religion, then the film, aside from entertaining, shall have served its (unwitting) purpose. A strong faith, after all, doesn't waver in the face of speculation and adversity—as a lot of fallen martyrs can attest.

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# Laughter is the best medicine

By Nestor U. Torre

WILLIAMS (WITH JEFF DANIELS, LEFT). Plays an absentee father in "RV."

LIFE HAS BECOME SO STRESSFUL and complicated that viewers cry out for a much-needed break, by way of comedy films.

Ever eager to oblige, movie producers are providing that welcome respite with alacrity, by way of these new cinematic romps that aim to affirm the grinning contention that laughter is indeed the best medicine:

## Sequel

The first "Pirates of the Caribbean" flick was such a gas that a sequel, "Dead Man's Chest," has been trotted out for viewing next month. This time around, Capt. Jack Sparrow (Johnny Depp) finds out that he owes a blood debt to the legendary Davey Jones, and must find a way out or be doomed to eternal damnation.

Robin Williams' new comic starrer, "RV," casts him as an absentee father. He and his dysfunctional family rent an RV and head for the Rockies. Naturally, everything goes wrong with their "fun" vacation.

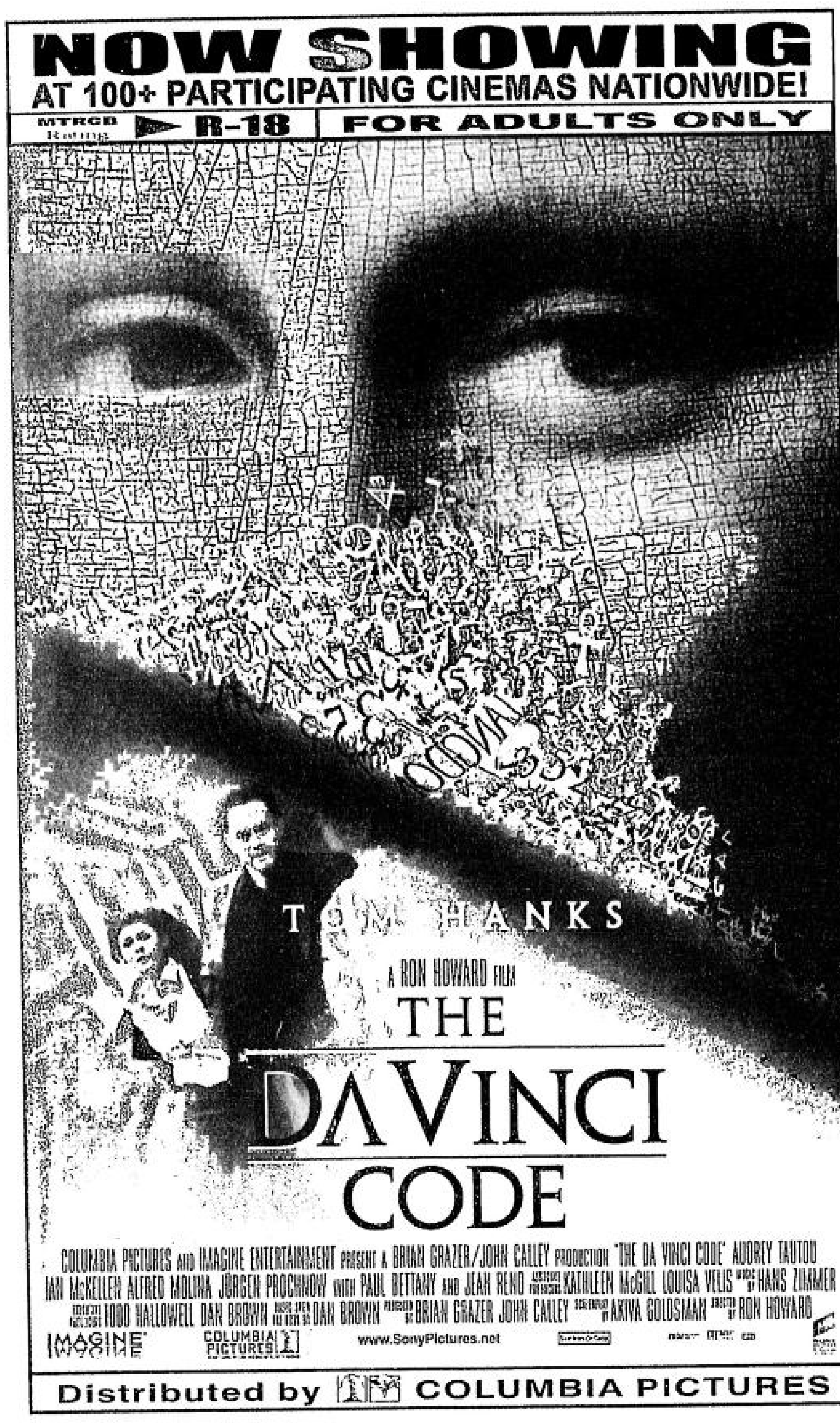
## Superhero

For his part, Tim Allen plays an out-of-shape superhero in his latest starrer, "Zoom." He reluctantly agrees to turn a ragtag group of kids into a new generation of superheroes to save the world from destruction.

In "Stick It," Jeff Bridges plays the coach of a team of rule-abiding gymnasts who develop a taste for rebellion after a renegade joins the crew.

In "Unaccompanied Minors," it's Christmas Eve, and five kids are snowed in at the airport—with no parent in sight! The kids try

LAUGHTER/ A3-3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| G4 | THE DA VINCI CODE | THE DA VINCI CODE | THX THE DA VINCI CODE 12:30, 3:40, 6:50, 10:00 GUARANTEED SEATS | POSEIDON | OVER THE HEDGE | THE DA VINCI CODE | MISSION IMPOSSIBLE 3 |
| GB1 GREENBELT 1 | POSEIDON | THE DA VINCI CODE | | | | | |
| GB3 | THX THE DA VINCI CODE 1:10, 4:20 GUARANTEED SEATS | THX THE DA VINCI CODE 1:40, 4:50, 11:10 GUARANTEED SEATS | POSEIDON 1:40, 3:45, 6:50, 7:55, 10:00 GUARANTEED SEATS | OVER THE HEDGE 1:50, 3:45, 7:45, 9:30, 11:25 GUARANTEED SEATS | THE DA VINCI CODE 2:10, 5:20, 8:40, 11:40 GUARANTEED SEATS | | |
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Cinema 3* - 12:30 PM, 3:40, 6:50, 10:00
Cinema 6 - 1:00 PM, 4:10, 7:20, 10:30

GLORIETTA 1
Cinema 1 - 11:30 AM, 2:40 PM, 5:50, 9:00
Cinema 2 - 12:10 PM, 3:20 PM, 6:30, 9:40

GREENBELT 1
Cinema 2 - 12:00 NN, 3:10 PM, 6:20, 9:30

GREENBELT 3
Cinema 1* - 1:40 PM, 4:50, 8:00, 11:10
Cinema 2* - 12:50 PM, 4:00, 7:10, 10:20
Cinema 5** - 11:20 AM, 2:30 PM, 8:50, 12:00

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Cinema 1 (THX) - 12:30 PM, 3:40 PM, 6:50, 10:00
Cinema 2 - 1:00 PM, 4:10, 7:20, 10:30
Cinema 3 - 1:30 PM, 4:40, 7:50, 11:00

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Cinema 1 - 11:45 AM, 2:55, 6:05, 7:20, 9:15
Cinema 5 - 12:15 PM, 3:25, 6:35, 9:45
Cinema 6 - 12:45 PM, 3:55, 7:05

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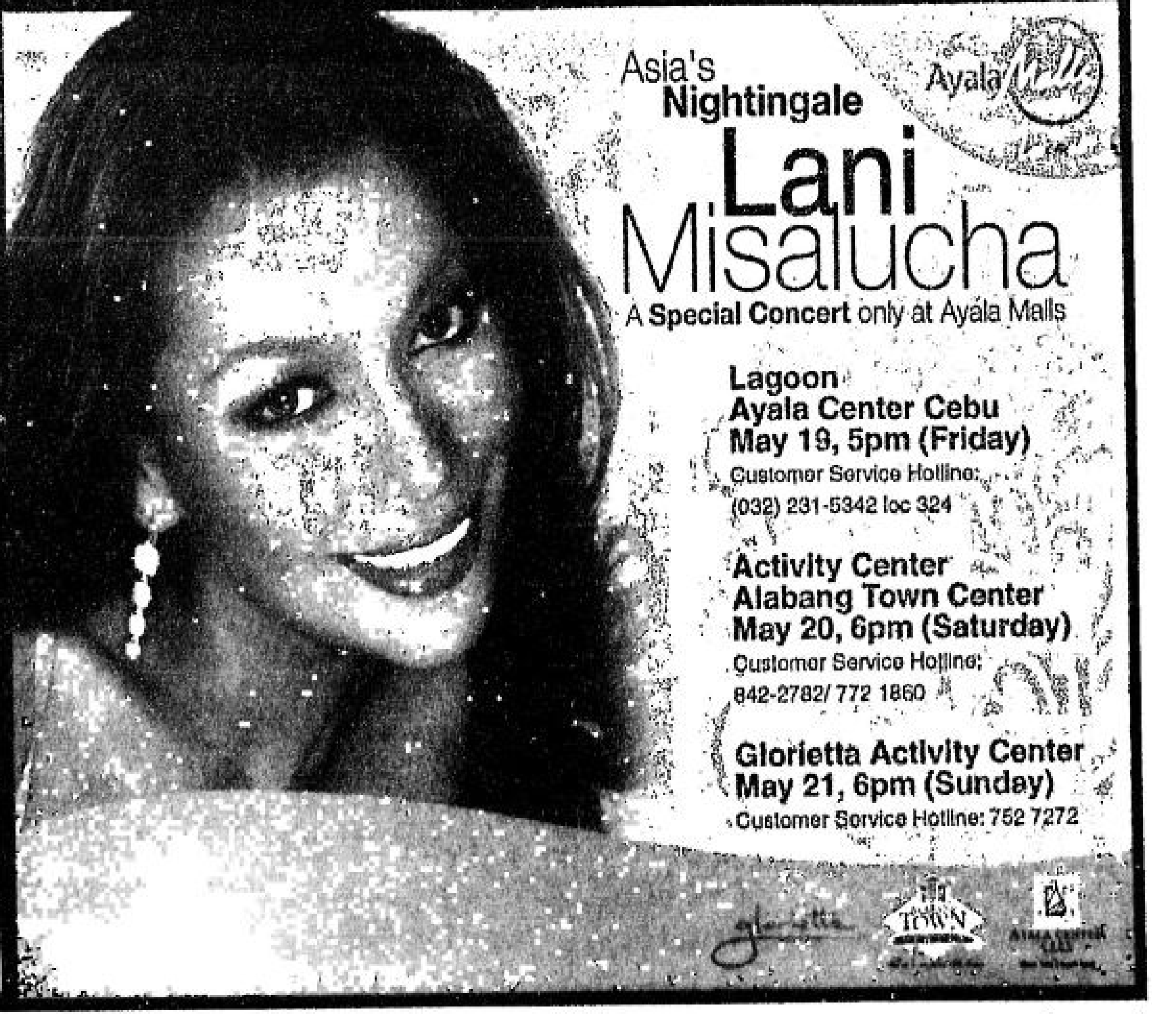
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# Haunting the haunted

**By Noelani Torre**

IN THE FIRST FEW MINUTES OF horror-meister Takashi Shimizu's "Reincarnation" ("Rinne"), the audience is shown several scenes, each of which could belong to any of the J-horror films released within the past five years.

There's the schoolgirl getting creeped out by a cell phone; a guy alone in an elevator (except, that is, for the ghost behind him); another guy seemingly alone in a public bathroom; a truck driver who runs over a mysterious, popped-out-from-nowhere person, and a doll-toting little girl haunting the film's protagonist.

## Mass murder

These seemingly unrelated events start jelling when the rest of the story kicks in: A famed horror movie director (Kippei Shiina) is making a film about a mass murder that happened in a hotel back in 1970, where 11 people were killed, including the murderer's own son and daughter.

Our protagonist, Nagisa Sugiura (Yuka), is a young actress who lands the role of the daughter. Though they're using a made-up set for the actual shooting, the film's cast and crew nevertheless visit the scene of the crime, where Sugiura finds herself transported back to that tragic day, and witnesses the killer's murderous rampage.

It's easy to deduce that the haunted people in the film's first scenes probably have something to do with the

HAUNTING/ A3-4

**"REINCARNATION." Ideas from other scary movies rehashed.**

---

# Laughter

From page A3-2

to outwit a disgruntled airport official so they can be reunited with their families in time for Christmas.

What's "comedy prince" Jim Carrey up to? He's teaming up with Ben Stiller in "Used Guys." The futuristic comedy is set at a time when women run the Earth, and men are extinct! Carrey and Stiller play clones rendered obsolete by superior models whose enhancements include better listening and lovemaking skills. —Fun concept!

## Narrator

New comedy star Will Ferrell's latest movie is "Stranger Than Fiction." In the film, he is cast as an IRS agent whose world is turned upside-down when he begins to hear his life being chronicled by a narrator only he can hear.

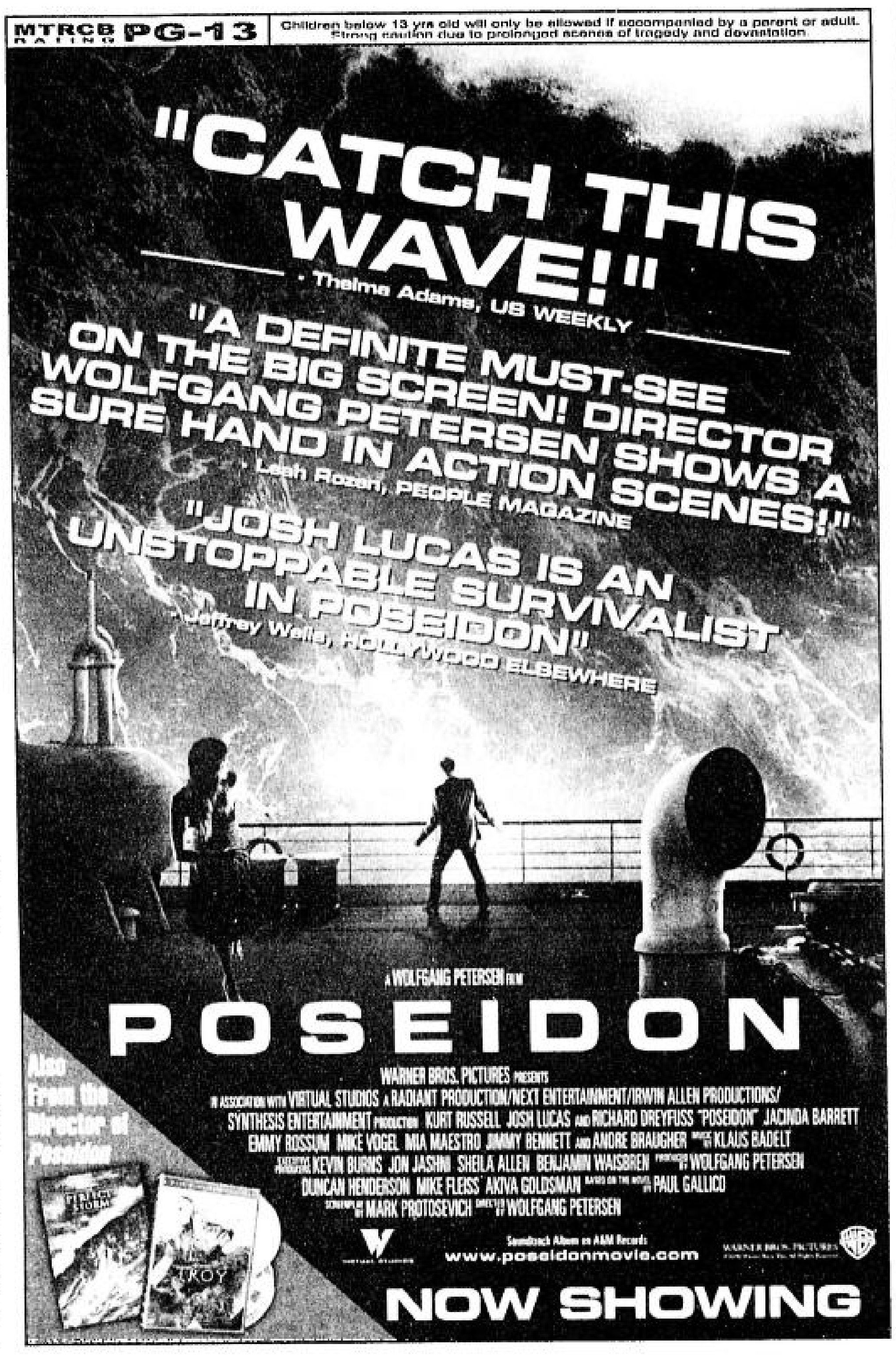
The narrator (Emma Thompson) is struggling to complete her novel, unaware that the protagonist is alive and is being controlled by her words. —Another witty brainstorm!

In "Click," Adam Sandler finds a universal remote that enables him to fast-forward or rewind the different periods in his life. Complication arise when the remote starts to override his choices.

## Losers

In "The Benchwarmers," three losers led by Rob Schneider try to make up for their lack of athleticism by forming a three-man baseball team to challenge a full squad of elementary school players.

Finally, "Scary Movie 4." No blockbuster movie or pop culture icon is safe from the fourth installment of this popular comedy franchise: "War of the Worlds," "The Grudge" and "Brokeback Mountain," among many others, are all mercilessly spoofed—with hilarious results!



MTRCB RATING PG-13 Children below 13 yrs old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult. Strong caution due to prolonged scenes of tragedy and devastation.

"CATCH THIS WAVE!" - Thelma Adams, US WEEKLY

"A DEFINITE MUST-SEE ON THE BIG SCREEN! DIRECTOR WOLFGANG PETERSEN SHOWS A SURE HAND IN ACTION SCENES!" - Leah Rozen, PEOPLE MAGAZINE

"JOSH LUCAS IS AN UNSTOPPABLE SURVIVALIST IN POSEIDON" - Jeffrey Wells, HOLLYWOOD ELSEWHERE

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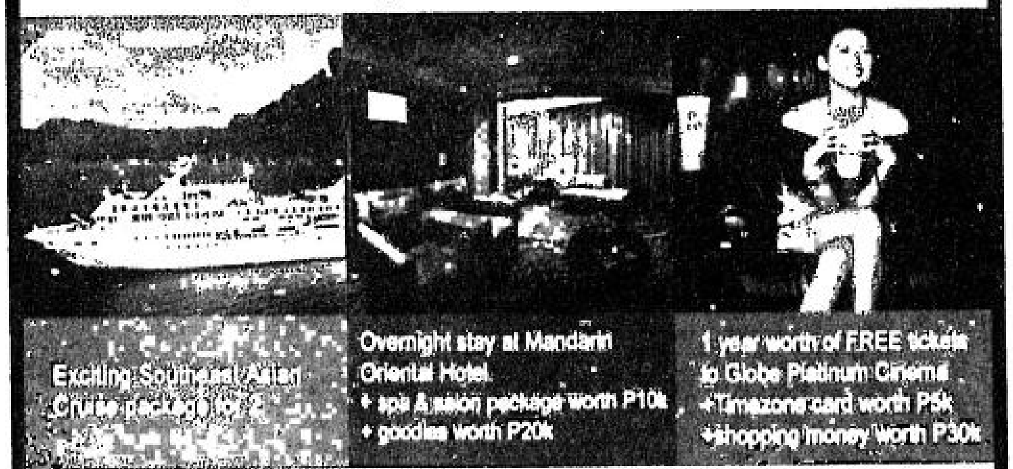

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THE DA VINCI CODE
12:05 R3 / 2:20 / 5:15 / 8:10

MISSION IMPOSSIBLE: 3
12:00 / 2:40 / 5:20 / 8:00

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M:I:III

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OVER THE HEDGE
POSEIDON

SM CITY BACOOR
PAMAHIIN
M:I:III
POSEIDON
OVER THE HEDGE
M:I:III
REINCARNATION
D LUCKY ONES
SILENT HILL

LUZON

SM CITY BATANGAS
SILENT HILL
POSEIDON
M:I:III
OVER THE HEDGE

SM CITY LUCENA
SHE'S THE MAN
M:I:III
OVER THE HEDGE
POSEIDON

SM CITY CLARK
POSEIDON
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OVER THE HEDGE
SILENT HILL
AQUAMARINE
AMERICAN SOLDIERS

SM CITY PAMPANGA
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PAMAHIIN

SM CITY MOLINO
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OVER THE HEDGE
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REINCARNATION

SM CITY STA. ROSA
OVER THE HEDGE
BANDIDAS
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M:I:III

SM CITY CEBU
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OVER THE HEDGE
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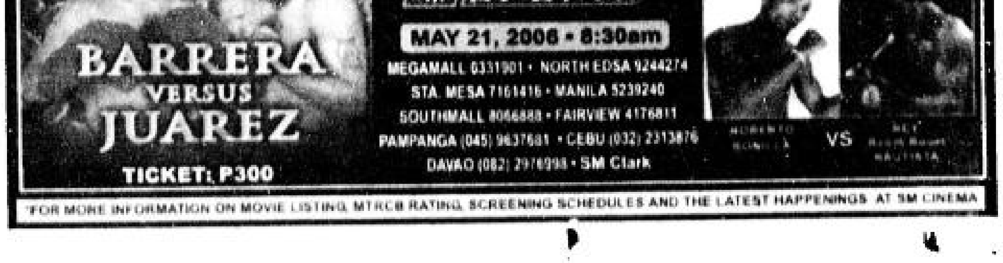
M:I:III

SCHEDULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE



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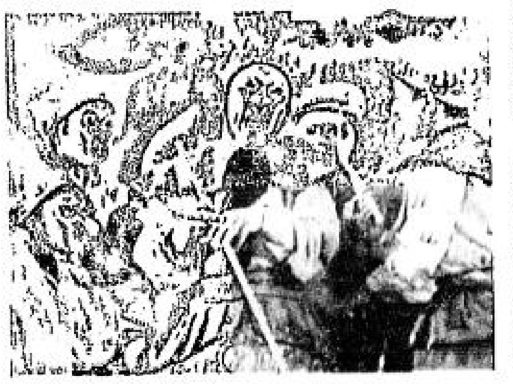
# International theater festival slated May 23-27

THEATER BUFFS AND WORKERS SHOULD take advantage of the 31st Unesco-International Theater Institute Congress which will be held in Manila from May 23 to 27, the first time that the global event is being staged in Southeast Asia.

## Delegates

Around 500 delegates are attending the congress, so our theater people should have a field day interacting with their colleagues from other countries, looking for commonalities and celebrating their cultures' uniqueness.

There will also be performances galore, plus seminars and other opportunities for interaction that we shouldn't pass up, because they could expand and enrich our appreciation of the congress' theme: Heritage impinging on theater and life today.


**PERFORMERS** from the Shanghai Theater Academy strut their stuff.

In addition, the World Festival of Drama Schools is currently being held (until May 29). Its "Theater for All" component is particularly exciting because it enables foreign drama groups to perform all over the Philippines. For instance, Peruvian performers will visit Vigan, Indian players will perform in Baguio, and a troupe from the Ukraine will go to Iloilo.

We cite this initiative because we think it's important that theater gets out of theaters *and* reach out to people where they live and breathe.

## Events

The congress and festival has many other components, so people who love stage presentations are urged to do their best to clear their schedules, so they can watch or participate in as many theater events as they can before the ITI events come to a close.

For schedules, call NCCA at 527-2192 or 93, fax 527-5529, or visit www.ncca.gov.ph

# Haunting

From page A3-3

angry, vengeful ghosts of the victims. *Then* it gets confusing.

These people are supposed to be the reincarnated souls of the murder victims. Yet, they are being haunted by their own souls—*and* the souls of others who were killed that day. It doesn't make any sense: How can you be a ghost if you've already been reincarnated?

## Problematic

Shimizu, who gave us the "Ju-on"/"Grudge" films, doesn't appear to find this problematic. Later on, you'll see these people looking zombified and lurching around in the hotel.

Despite the confusion engendered, the movie will still keep you riveted—if only because you want to find out why the murderer did what he did.

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| 2 | THE DA VINCI CODE | 12:40, 4:00, 7:25, 10:50 | R-18 |
| 3 | THE DA VINCI CODE | 11:40, 2:50, 6:10, 9:40 | R-18 |
| 4 | POSEIDON | 1:30, 3:55, 6:20, 8:45, 11:10 | PG-13 |

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|---|---|---|
| MISSION IMPOSSIBLE 3<br>PG13<br>12:00,2:30<br>THE DA VINCI CODE<br>R18<br>5:00,8:00 | OVER THE HEDGE<br>G<br>12:00,2:00,4:00,<br>6:00,8:00,10:00 | THE DA VINCI CODE<br>R18<br>12:15,3:15,6:15,9:15 |
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CINEMA 3 OVER THE HEDGE/ THE DA VINCI CODE 11:00, 1:10, 3:20, 5:30, 7:40, 9:50 /11:30 GP/ R18
CINEMA 4 THE DA VINCI CODE 10:55, 1:55, 4:55, 7:55, 10:50 R18
CINEMA 5 THE DA VINCI CODE 10:20, 1:20, 4:20, 7:20, 10:20 R18
TICKET PRICES & SCREENING TIME SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE. FOR CINEMA INQUIRIES, CALL: 722 4496.

MUSIC MUSEUM

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| May 27, 2006 | ERIK MANA | 8:00PM |
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| EVERY MONDAY | DANCE NIGHT | 7:00PM |
| MAY 26 & 27 2006 | WERE STILL HOT "THE MUSICAL"<br>FOR INQUIRIES PLS CALL 722-4532 LOC 116 | 8:00PM |

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2 THE DA VINCI CODE MTRCB R-18 1 20, 4 25, 7.30,10 35PM LMF
3 THE DA VINCI CODE MTRCB R-18 12.30, 3.35, 6.40, 9.45PM
4 OVER THE HEDGE MTRCB GP 12.40,3 00,5 20,7:40,10:00
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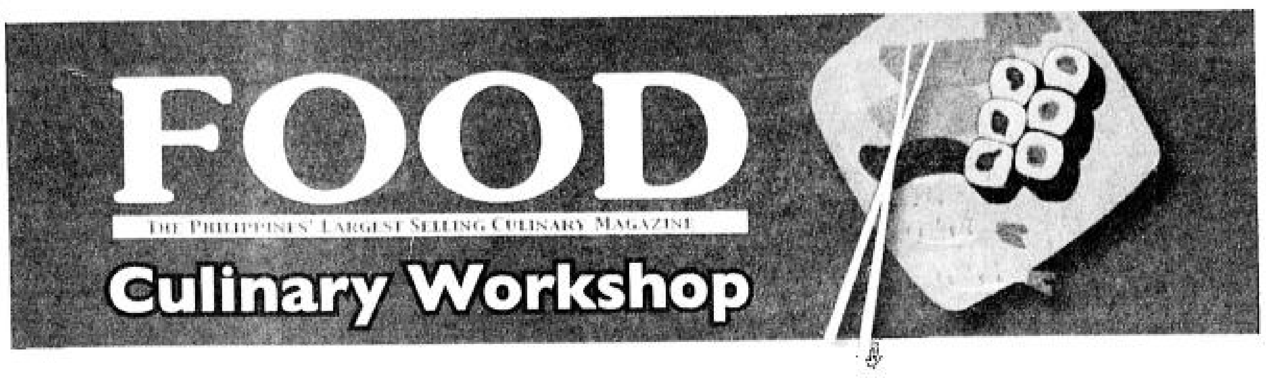
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Theme:
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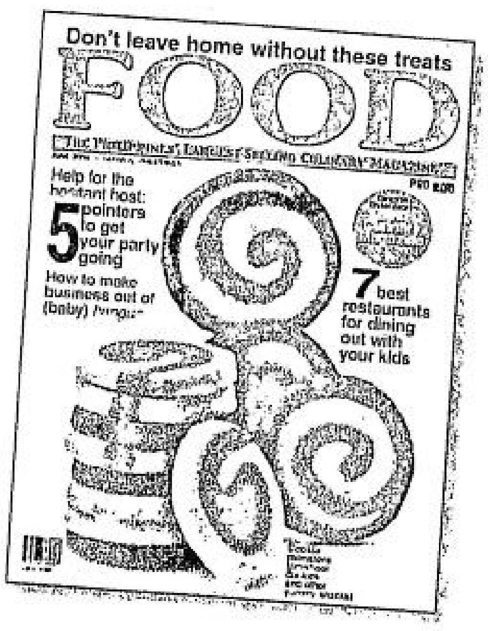
Speaker:
Chef Him Uy de Baron
Chef Him Uy de Baron is a professional *kusinero* at large. He's also a chef instructor for academy for International Culinary Arts and Consultant for East Café in Rustan's Makati.


Don't leave home without these treats
FOOD
Help for the hesitant host: 5 pointers to get your party going
How to make business out of (baby) hunger
7 best restaurants for dining out with your kids

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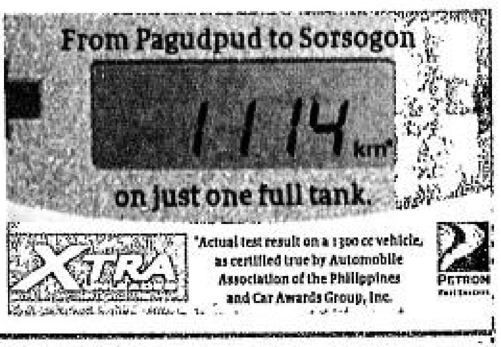
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PETRON

# Banks' bad loans ratio falls to 8-year low

## Further decline seen with SPV framework

SM PRIME president Hans Sy poses for photographers at the lobby of the Mall of Asia. RUDY ESPERAS

**By Doris C. Dumlao**

THE AMOUNT OF SOURED LOANS OF PHILIPPINE commercial banks as a percentage of their total lending portfolio dipped to a new eight-year low at 8.26 percent in end-March, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas said yesterday.

The end-March non-performing loans (NPL) ratio was a notch lower than the 8.27 percent posted in end-February, and was the industry's lowest since hitting 7.42 percent in end-March 1998.

"The month-on-month improvement in the industry's NPL ratio was mainly due to banks' direct write-offs of problem loans as well as rigorous collection and settlement efforts," the BSP said.

During the month, the industry's NPLs declined by 0.5 percent to P157.89 billion, offsetting the 0.3-percent cut in total loan portfolio to P1.91 trillion.

The NPL ratio in March stood significantly lower than the year-ago level of 11.3 percent. Year-on-year, banks' problem loans were also nearly 25 percent lower than the reported P207.19 billion level in end-March last year.

The ratio of restructured loans to total loan portfolio slightly went up to 5.2 percent from a month ago's 5.16 percent after a 0.4-percent growth in total restructured loans.

But actual restructured loans fell by 6 percent, thereby bringing non-performing restructured loans as a ratio of total restructured loans down by 3.22 percentage points to 47.68 percent.

As of end-March, total restructured loans amounted to P99.7 billion while non-performing loans stood at P47.54 billion.

A debt restructuring can cover a whole range of debt concessions—including the stretching out of maturities, lowering of interest rates and in extreme cases, the conversion of debt into equity—to give the borrower a

BANKS/ B2

# ₱6.5-B 'Mall of Asia' opens tomorrow

**By Elizabeth L. Sanchez**

SM PRIME HOLDINGS INC., THE MALL DEVELoper of taipan Henry Sy, is opening tomorrow the P6.5-billion "Mall of Asia," its biggest and most ambitious project in the country to date.

SM Prime president Hans Sy said the 400,000-square-meter mall would give jobs to an estimated 10,000 workers—which include construction workers, tenants' personnel and department store and hypermarket employees.

"This is our own way to contribute to the economy. 10,000 new jobs will keep the ball rolling," Sy said following a press conference held at the Italianni's Restaurant in the Mall of Asia in Pasay City.

Rigorous security systems will be in place by Sunday's grand opening with surveillance cameras and close-circuit TV monitors in place and more than a dozen bomb sniffing dogs patrolling the area.

President Macapagal-Arroyo will be the guest of honor during the mall's blessing today.

Mall of Asia is Sy's 25th mall, with more than 600 local and international brands and 150 indoor and *al fresco* dining outlets.

The mall is also seen to consume up to P65 million worth of electricity a month compared with one of its largest malls, SM Megamall's P45 million in power usage a month.

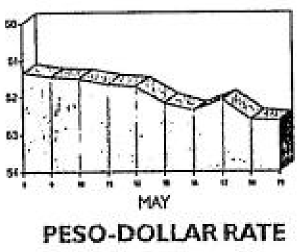
Sy said he harbored mixed feelings about the long-awaited launch of Mall of Asia after it took two-and-a-half years to build.

"Now the pressure on construction is over, the pressure on operation is about to begin," Sy said.

P6.5-B MALL/ B2

## INDICATORS

### CURRENCIES



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₱ 52.65 = $1
As of 5 p.m., May 19, 2006

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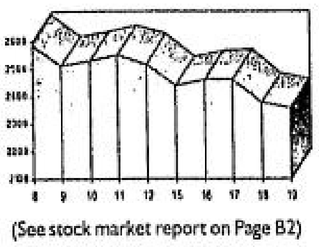
As of 5 p.m., May 19, 2006

GOLD: $684.30-684.80
per ounce Hong Kong, May 19, 2006

### STOCK MARKET



(See stock market report on Page B2)

## Shares close lower

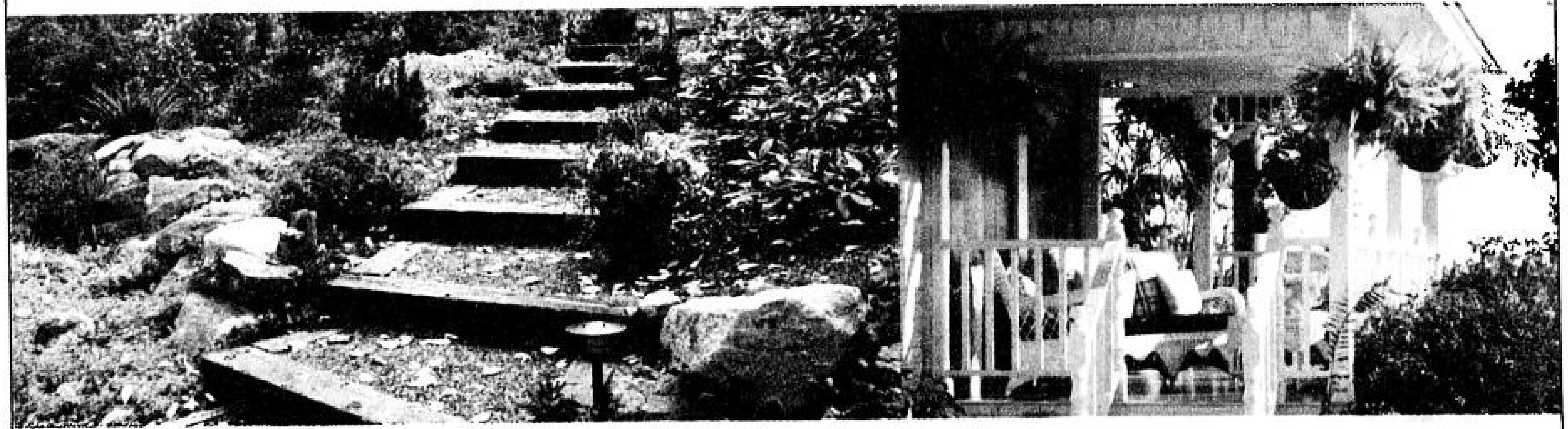
SHARE PRICES CLOSED 0.96-percent lower yesterday after further losses on Wall Street overnight amid continued uncertainty over the outlook for US interest rates, dealers said.

They said the local market's recent selldown has pushed the main index back to where it was before it surged to a near seven-year high early last week.

The Philippine Stock Exchange composite index lost 22.72 points at 2,356.02 after trading between 2,339.51 and 2,378.74. Volume totaled 9.96 billion shares worth P2.2 billion.

SHARES/ B4

Brittany



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GEORGIA
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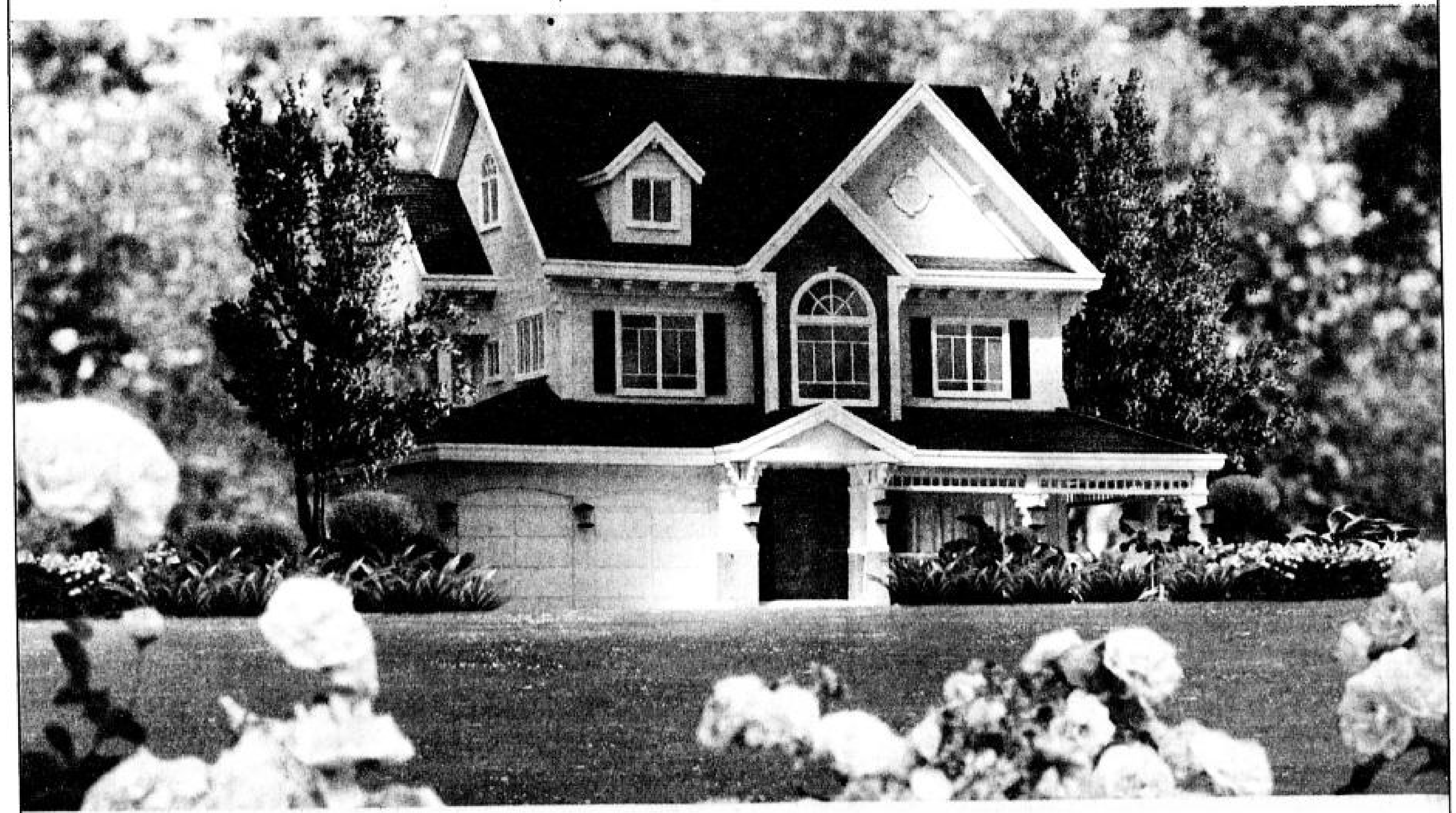
*Some sweet day when blossoms fall, and all the world's a song,*
*I'll go back to Georgia, cause that's where I belong*
–from the song Georgia On My Mind



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# Alcatel seeks bigger RP presence

FRENCH COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY firm Alcatel recently signed on two additional business partners in the country in a bid to increase its market share in the booming telecommunications industry.

In a press briefing, a regional Alcatel official said the move—which rides on the strengths of local partners—would help the company develop a stronger presence in the country while allowing it to save on manpower costs.

"We now have two new business partners in the Philippines to add to the existing one," senior vice president for enterprise solutions in the Asia-Pacific Clifton Yong said.

The partnership with local firms maximizes the company's reach in the local market by providing local clients with sales and support services, he added.

At present, the company holds an 18-percent market share in the local voice, data and call center communications business which is estimated to be worth almost $100 million, Alcatel country manager Goulds L. Castillo Jr. said.

He said the local market for data transmission equipment was the largest segment worth an estimated $40 million, followed by the market for voice transmission equipment at $27 million, while the market for call center communications is worth up to $15 million.

*Daxim L. Lucas*

# Piltel accelerates debt repayment

## Operations improving, officials say

**By Daxim L. Lucas**

LISTED FIRM PILIPINO TELEPHONE Corp.—the mass market mobile phone unit of the Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co.—will cut its debt level by almost half this year as its operations continue to improve.

Speaking to reporters recently, Piltel president and CEO Napoleon L. Nazareno said that the company plans to pay off $177 million worth of debt to its creditors by next month.

The payment represents 43 percent of the company's outstanding debt, which it had amassed since the late 1990s.

"After this, we will be left with a balance of only $236 million [in debt]," he said.

Nazareno expressed confidence that Piltel can pay off the remaining debt in a year or a year and a half, at the latest, given the company's strong cash flow.

He explained that the aggressive repayment of the company's debts was also meant to help it save money through the reduction of interest expenses on the loans.

Earlier this month, Piltel submitted notices to creditors of its intent to make a partial voluntary prepayment of its principal debt instead of making a deposit into its sinking fund account—a condition of its rehabilitation plan sealed with creditors in 2001.

Piltel said the amount of the prepayment represents excess cash flows from its operations in 2005.

Nazareno said the original schedule for the repayment of the first tranche would not have come until 2010, and the second tranche by 2014, but improving finances made Piltel's management decide on an earlier date.

The move was also meant to improve the company's credit standing with the financial community, which had shunned the mobile phone network operator in the aftermath of the 1997 East Asian financial crisis which brought it to the brink of bankruptcy.

More importantly, Piltel managed to return to a positive stockholders' equity at the end of last year after three years of reporting a negative position.

Its stockholders' equity stood at P6.7 billion as of end March this year. The capital deficit also continued to decline to P30.1 billion at the end of the first quarter of 2006, lower than the P32.3 billion and P45.8 billion at the end of 2005 and 2004, respectively.

Nazareno said the improvement in the company's finances was made possible by its strong cash flows, especially from its "Talk 'N Text" service which caters to the mass market.

## Banks' . . .

From page B1

chance to revive its business.

As a percentage of gross assets, real and other properties owned and acquired or Ropoa dipped to 4.94 percent from the previous month's 4.97 percent. This reduced the level of Ropoas to P196.81 billion.

The industry's non-performing asset ratio to total assets also eased to 8.68 percent from 8.74 percent last month.

Meanwhile, the coverage ratio or the share of bad loans provided with loan-loss reserves, amounted to 79.32 percent in end-March, up from 79.27 percent a month ago.

UBS Investment Bank senior economist for Southeast Asia Christa Janjic said bank lending in the Philippines remained anemic due to the industry's huge amounts of non-performing loans and assets, weak capital base and high lending rates despite falling treasury bill and bond yields.

But she said "the building blocks may be coming together" as banks' bad assets had been falling sharply on the back of the Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) framework, which provides fiscal incentives to the sale of problematic loans and foreclosed properties.

## P6.5-B 'Mall . . .

From page B1

Mall of Asia is expected to contribute 3 to 5 percent to SM Prime's total revenues and will further boost the company's earnings in the second half of the year.

Sitting on a 60-hectare lot overlooking Manila Bay, the complex consists of four buildings linked by elevated walkways—the Main Mall, the North Parking Building, the South Parking Building and the Entertainment Center Building. The Main Mall is host to the food court and large showroom-style retail and dining establishments.

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### Philippine National Bank

### NOTICE OF ANNUAL STOCKHOLDERS' MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the Annual Meeting of Stockholders of the Philippine National Bank will be held on May 30, 2006 at 8:00 a.m. at the Ballroom, Upper Lobby, Century Park Hotel, 599 Pablo Ocampo Sr. St., Malate, Manila.

The Agenda for the meeting is as follows:

1. Call to Order
2. Secretary's Proof of Notice and Quorum
3. Approval of the Minutes of the 2005 Annual Stockholders' Meeting held on May 24, 2005
4. Report of the President on the Results of Operations for the Year 2005
5. Approval of the 2005 Annual Report
6. Approval of the Amendment to the Amended By-Laws (transfer of the position, powers and duties of the Chairman of the Board in Sections 6.1 and 6.3, Article VI captioned "Officers" to Section 5.4, Article V captioned "Board of Directors")
7. Ratification of All Acts, Resolutions and Proceedings of the Board of Directors and Corporate Officers since the 2005 Annual Stockholders' Meeting
8. Election of Directors
9. Appointment of External Auditor
10. Other Matters
11. Adjournment

Minutes of the 2005 Annual Stockholders' Meeting as well as resolutions of the Board of Directors from May 25, 2005 will be available for examination during office hours at the Office of the Corporate Secretary.

Only stockholders of record as of May 2, 2006 will be entitled to notice and vote at this meeting. Registration will begin at 6:00 a.m.

If you cannot personally attend the meeting, you may designate your authorized representative by submitting a PROXY to the Office of the Corporate Secretary not later than 5:00 p.m. on May 25, 2006. Any proxies so received will be validated on May 26, 2006, 9:30 a.m., at the Office of the Stock Transfer Agent at Allied Bank Center, 6754 Ayala Avenue, Makati City.

Pasay City, March 24, 2006

RENATO J. FERNANDEZ
Corporate Secretary

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**(1) Project Manager III** – SG 27; Master's degree in Business Management; Administration; Public Administration; Social; with 15 years experience relevant to the job; 10 years in position involving management and supervision; 160 hours of training in management and supervision; Eligibility: RA 1080

**(1) Engineer V** - SG 24; Bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering; with 10 years experience relevant to the job; 5 years in position involving management and supervision; 120 hours of training in management and supervision; Eligibility: RA 1080

**(7) Engineer III** - SG 19; Bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering; 5 years experience relevant to the job; 3 years supervisory experience; 40 hours of relevant training; Eligibility: RA 1080

*Must be willing to be assigned in any of the following DepEd Division Offices. Zamboanga City, Iloilo Province, Aurora Province, Quezon Province, Lanao del Norte, Lanao del Sur and North Cotabato.*

**(1) Architect II** - SG 16; Bachelor's degree in Architecture; 5 years experience relevant to the job; 40 hours of relevant training; Eligibility: RA 1080

**(1) Project Development Officer III** - SG 18; Bachelor's degree relevant to the job. 2 years of relevant experience in project implementation particularly in physical facilities, training and finance components; 8 hours of relevant training; Eligibility: Career Service (Professional)

**(1) Project Development Officer II** - SG 15; Bachelor's degree relevant to the job; 3 years of relevant experience in project implementation (physical facilities, training and finance components); 12 hours of relevant training in project implementation; Eligibility: Career Service (Professional)

**(1) Driver II** - SG 4; Elementary school graduate; with at least 3 years of driving experience; Licensed; (MC 11, s. 1996 – Cat. II)

Deadline for submission of applications is **May 24, 2006.**

Please send comprehensive resume and credentials to the following address:

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- Graduate of Electrical Engineering course;
- Familiar on Notebook and PC product engineering analysis;
- At least four (4) years related work experience in Eng'g management specifically in plant production;
- Excellent communication skills.

PRODUCTION CONTROL SUPERVISOR
- Graduate of any Business related course preferably with masters in Business Administration;
- Familiar on market information & computer application operation;
- Must have related work experience in material planning and procurement specifically Computer manufacturing;
- Excellent communication skills.

PRODUCT ENGINEERING SUPERVISOR
- Graduate of Electrical Engineering course;
- Familiar on Notebook and PC product engineering analysis;
- Must have related work experience in plant production Eng'g;
- Excellent communication skills.

Interested applicants may directly apply and / or submit their resume to the address indicated below:

Wistron InfoComm (Philippines), Corporation
Human Resources Department
#4 Rizal Hi-way corner Aim High Avenue
Subic Bay Industrial Park, Subic Bay Freeport Zone
Telephone No. (047) 252-77-40 ; Fascimile: (047) 2526223

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## PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of May 19, 2006)

| STOCKS | OPEN | HIGH | LOW | CLOSE | VOLUME |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **FINANCIAL** | | | | | |
| **BANKS** | | | | | |
| Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc. | 6.1 | 6.4 | 6.1 | 6.4 | 44,000 |
| Banco de Oro Univ. Bank | 36 | 36.5 | 35 | 36 | 316,500 |
| Bank of the Phil. Islands | 64 | 64 | 63 | 63.5 | 3,120,100 |
| China Banking Corp. | 895 | 900 | 895 | 900 | 2,250 |
| Citystate Savings Bank | 20.25 | 20.25 | 20.25 | 20.25 | 600 |
| Export and Ind. Bank A | 0.43 | 0.43 | 0.43 | 0.43 | 2,010,000 |
| Equitable PCI Bank Inc. | 72 | 72 | 70.5 | 71 | 91,300 |
| International Exch. Bank | 39.5 | 39.5 | 39.5 | 39.5 | 21,000 |
| Metropolitan Bank & Trust | 39 | 39 | 37.5 | 39 | 256,000 |
| Philippine National Bank | 35 | 35 | 35 | 35 | 900 |
| Phil. Savings Bank | 39 | 39 | 39 | 39 | 27,500 |
| Rizal Comm. Banking Corp. | 17.25 | 17.25 | 17.25 | 17.25 | 3,000 |
| Security Bank Corp. | 51.5 | 53 | 51.5 | 53 | 132,100 |
| Union Bank of the Phil. | 43.5 | 43.5 | 42.5 | 43 | 21,100 |
| **OTHER FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS** | | | | | |
| Bankard Inc. | 0.71 | 0.71 | 0.71 | 0.71 | 70,000 |
| First Metro Invest. Corp. | 32 | 32 | 32 | 32 | 10,400 |
| Manulife Financial Corp. | 3450 | 3450 | 3365 | 3365 | 170 |
| PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc. | 1.02 | 1.02 | 1 | 1 | 590,000 |
| Phil. Stock Exchange Inc. | 200 | 210 | 200 | 200 | 2,000 |
| Ivantage Corp. | 1.2 | 1.22 | 1.16 | 1.16 | 4,067,000 |
| **INDUSTRIAL** | | | | | |
| **ELECTRICITY, ENERGY, POWER & WATER** | | | | | |
| First Gen Corp. | 46.5 | 47.5 | 46.5 | 47 | 381,800 |
| First Phil Hldgs Corp. | 48 | 48 | 47 | 47 | 764,400 |
| Manila Electric Co. A | 13.75 | 14 | 13.75 | 14 | 20,700 |
| Manila Electric Co. B | 20.75 | 21.25 | 20.75 | 21 | 1,151,800 |
| Manila Water Co. Inc. | 7.1 | 7.3 | 7.1 | 7.2 | 2,225,000 |
| Petron Corp. | 4.55 | 4.6 | 4.45 | 4.6 | 3,350,000 |
| Trans-Asia Oil and Energy | 1.02 | 1.02 | 1 | 1 | 590,000 |
| **FOOD, BEVERAGE & TOBACCO** | | | | | |
| Alaska Milk Corp. | 3.4 | 3.4 | 3.4 | 3.4 | 12,000 |
| CADP Group Corp. | 2.95 | 2.95 | 2.95 | 2.95 | 11,000 |
| Jollibee Foods Corp. | 36 | 37 | 35.5 | 35.5 | 235,600 |
| Roxas Holdings Inc. | 3 | 3.1 | 3 | 3 | 1,051,000 |
| San Miguel Corp. A | 63 | 63.5 | 63 | 63.5 | 203,100 |
| San Miguel Corp. B | 80 | 80.5 | 79.5 | 80.5 | 562,100 |
| Phil Tob Flue Cur & Redry | 10.25 | 10.25 | 10.25 | 10.25 | 5,000 |
| Universal Robina Corp. | 21 | 21 | 20.25 | 20.25 | 3,672,500 |
| Vitarich Corp. | 0.25 | 0.25 | 0.25 | 0.25 | 500,000 |
| **CONSTRUCTION, INFRASTRUCTURE & ALLIED SERVICES** | | | | | |
| Southeast Asian Cement | 0.34 | 0.34 | 0.34 | 0.34 | 500,000 |
| Engineering Equip. Inc. | 1.56 | 1.56 | 1.48 | 1.52 | 3,483,000 |
| Holcim Philippines Inc. | 4.85 | 5 | 4.85 | 5 | 224,000 |
| Phil Nat'l Const. Corp. | 2.8 | 2.8 | 2.55 | 2.55 | 44,000 |
| Republic Cement Corp. | 1.5 | 1.52 | 1.4 | 1.4 | 613,000 |
| **DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS** | | | | | |
| Global Equities Inc. | 0.12 | 0.125 | 0.12 | 0.12 | 22,060,000 |
| Picop Resources Inc. | 0.07 | 0.07 | 0.07 | 0.07 | 1,700,000 |
| **HOLDING FIRMS** | | | | | |
| Abacus Con Res & Hdg A | 0.0075 | 0.0075 | 0.0075 | 0.0075 | 1,000,000 |
| Ayala Corp. | 415 | 425 | 410 | 420 | 213,640 |
| Alsons Cons. Res. Inc. | 0.59 | 0.7 | 0.59 | 0.62 | 6,040,000 |
| Aboitiz Equity Ventures | 5.9 | 5.9 | 5.7 | 5.7 | 968,000 |
| Ajo.Net Holdings Inc. | 0.026 | 0.03 | 0.026 | 0.03 | 52,900,000 |
| A. Soriano Corp. | 3.5 | 3.55 | 3.35 | 3.35 | 1,877,000 |
| APC Group Inc. | 0.23 | 0.24 | 0.23 | 0.24 | 1,900,000 |
| Alcorn Gold Res. Corp. | 0.0085 | 0.0085 | 0.0085 | 0.0085 | 31,000,000 |
| Anglo Phil Holdings Corp. | 1.04 | 1.04 | 1 | 1 | 2,959,000 |
| Baguio Gold Holdings Corp. | 1.5 | 1.5 | 1.5 | 1.5 | 50,000 |
| Benpres Holdings Corp. | 1.1 | 1.12 | 1.08 | 1.08 | 1,411,000 |
| DMCI Holdings Inc. | 4.15 | 4.3 | 4.1 | 4.1 | 1,157,000 |
| Filinvest Dev. Corp. | 3.4 | 3.4 | 3.35 | 3.35 | 840,000 |
| J.G. Summit Holdings Inc. | 7.1 | 7.2 | 7.1 | 7.1 | 797,000 |
| Multitech Inv. Corp. | 0.27 | 0.27 | 0.27 | 0.27 | 100,000 |
| Pacifica | 0.01 | 0.01 | 0.01 | 0.01 | 34,000,000 |
| Prime Orion Phils. Inc. | 0.205 | 0.205 | 0.205 | 0.205 | 1,000,000 |
| Prime Media Holdings Inc. | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 6,000 |
| Republic Glass Hldg. Corp. | 1.6 | 1.6 | 1.6 | 1.6 | 5,000 |
| Sinophil Corp. | 0.145 | 0.145 | 0.145 | 0.145 | 1,180,000 |
| SM Investments Corp. | 233 | 234 | 228 | 228 | 306,320 |
| South China Resources Inc. | 1.18 | 1.18 | 1.12 | 1.12 | 540,000 |
| Unioil Res. & Holdings Co | 0.0575 | 0.0575 | 0.055 | 0.055 | 5,200,000 |
| Wellex Industries Inc. | 0.12 | 0.12 | 0.11 | 0.12 | 2,220,000 |
| **PROPERTY** | | | | | |
| Ayala Land Inc. | 13.75 | 13.75 | 13.25 | 13.5 | 29,765,400 |
| Belle Corp. | 1.16 | 1.18 | 1.12 | 1.18 | 5,896,000 |
| Cityland Development Corp. | 1.62 | 1.78 | 1.62 | 1.78 | 2,000 |
| Crown Equities Inc. | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.28 | 0.28 | 1,800,000 |
| Cebu Holdings Inc. | 2.28 | 2.28 | 2.26 | 2.26 | 848,000 |
| Cyber Bay Corp. | 0.21 | 0.215 | 0.205 | 0.205 | 6,920,000 |
| Empire East Land Inc. | 0.65 | 0.65 | 0.64 | 0.65 | 16,680,000 |
| Ever-Gotesco Resources | 0.05 | 0.05 | 0.046 | 0.046 | 6,400,000 |
| Suntrust Home Dev. Inc. | 0.67 | 0.68 | 0.67 | 0.67 | 710,000 |
| Filinvest Land Inc. | 1.5 | 1.54 | 1.46 | 1.48 | 8,577,000 |
| Gotesco Land Inc. | 0.1 | 0.13 | 0.1 | 0.13 | 20,000 |
| Gotesco Land Inc.B | 0.14 | 0.14 | 0.14 | 0.14 | 10,000 |
| Interport Res. | 0.0075 | 0.0075 | 0.0075 | 0.0075 | 5,000,000 |
| Keppel Phils. Prop. Inc. | 0.8 | 0.8 | 0.8 | 0.8 | 20,000 |
| Kuok Phil. Properties | 0.245 | 0.245 | 0.24 | 0.245 | 310,000 |
| Fil-Estate Land Inc. | 0.57 | 0.57 | 0.57 | 0.57 | 540,000 |
| Marsteel Cons. Inc. A | 0.014 | 0.014 | 0.014 | 0.014 | 500,000 |
| Megaworld Corp. | 1.58 | 1.68 | 1.58 | 1.66 | 45,228,000 |
| Metro Pacific Corp. | 0.25 | 0.26 | 0.25 | 0.25 | 17,980,000 |
| MRC Allied Ind. Inc. | 0.25 | 0.25 | 0.25 | 0.25 | 550,000 |
| Robinsons Land Corp. | 11 | 11.25 | 11 | 11.25 | 11,400 |
| Phil Realty and Holdings | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.3 | 220,000 |
| SM Development Corp. | 1.8 | 1.8 | 1.78 | 1.78 | 40,000 |
| SM Prime Holdings Inc. | 8.1 | 8.4 | 8 | 8.4 | 2,530,000 |
| Uniwide Holdings Inc. | 0.11 | 0.11 | 0.105 | 0.105 | 550,000 |
| **MEDIA** | | | | | |
| ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp. | 15.5 | 16.25 | 15.5 | 16 | 475,800 |
| **TELECOMMUNICATIONS** | | | | | |
| Digital Telecom Phils Inc. | 1.26 | 1.28 | 1.22 | 1.24 | 5,750,000 |
| Globe Telecom Inc. | 970 | 970 | 910 | 920 | 52,510 |
| Pilipino Tel. Corp. | 3.7 | 3.8 | 3.65 | 3.75 | 10,423,000 |
| Phil. Long Dis Tel Co. | 2000 | 2000 | 1950 | 1985 | 214,150 |
| **INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY** | | | | | |
| Boulevard Holdings Inc. | 0.24 | 0.245 | 0.24 | 0.245 | 600,000 |
| Imperial Res. | 0.012 | 0.012 | 0.012 | 0.012 | 5,600,000 |
| Ionics Inc. | 1.94 | 2.06 | 1.94 | 1.94 | 410,000 |
| Island Info and Tech Inc. | 0.043 | 0.043 | 0.043 | 0.043 | 1,000,000 |
| ISM Communications Corp. | 0.049 | 0.055 | 0.049 | 0.055 | 84,100,000 |
| Music Semiconductors Corp. | 1.44 | 1.44 | 1.32 | 1.32 | 316,000 |
| Philweb Corp. | 0.026 | 0.032 | 0.026 | 0.032 | 2,286,100,000 |
| **TRANSPORTATION SERVICES** | | | | | |
| Asian Terminals Inc. | 3.15 | 3.15 | 3.1 | 3.15 | 111,000 |
| Int'l Container Term'l Sv | 13.25 | 13.5 | 13.25 | 13.25 | 1,023,000 |
| Keppel Phils. Marine Inc. | 0.96 | 0.96 | 0.96 | 0.96 | 10,000 |
| **HOTEL & LEISURE** | | | | | |
| Leisure & Resorts Corp. | 1.56 | 1.56 | 1.52 | 1.56 | 60,000 |
| Manila Jockey Club | 2.9 | 2.9 | 2.8 | 2.8 | 40,000 |
| Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc. | 0.29 | 0.29 | 0.28 | 0.28 | 930,000 |
| Waterfront Phils. Inc. | 0.6 | 0.62 | 0.59 | 0.61 | 4,510,000 |
| **EDUCATION** | | | | | |
| iPeople Inc. | 3.15 | 3.2 | 3.1 | 3.1 | 190,000 |
| **DIVERSIFIED SERVICES** | | | | | |
| Macroasia corp. | 2.3 | 2.3 | 2.3 | 2.3 | 95,000 |
| Paxys inc. | 12 | 12 | 12 | 12 | 655,000 |
| **MINING** | | | | | |
| Apex Mining Co. Inc. A | 4.9 | 4.9 | 3.85 | 4 | 14,314,000 |
| Apex Mining Co. Inc. B | 4.9 | 5 | 4.25 | 4.35 | 6,692,000 |
| Abra Mining & Industrial | 0.0085 | 0.009 | 0.0085 | 0.009 | 130,000,000 |
| Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't | 8.2 | 8.4 | 8 | 8 | 3,373,000 |
| Benguet Corp. A | 12.25 | 12.25 | 11.5 | 12 | 78,100 |
| Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A | 0.38 | 0.38 | 0.37 | 0.38 | 10,080,000 |
| Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co. B | 0.39 | 0.4 | 0.39 | 0.4 | 7,810,000 |
| Manila Mining Corp. A | 0.027 | 0.027 | 0.026 | 0.026 | 120,300,000 |
| Manila Mining Corp. B | 0.028 | 0.029 | 0.028 | 0.028 | 136,800,000 |
| Omico Corp. | 0.0075 | 0.0095 | 0.0075 | 0.0095 | 6,264,000,000 |
| Philex Mining Corp. A | 4.85 | 4.9 | 4.75 | 4.75 | 6,437,000 |
| Philex Mining Corp. B | 4.9 | 4.95 | 4.75 | 4.85 | 11,493,000 |
| Semirara Mining Corp. | 28.5 | 28.5 | 28 | 28 | 160,500 |
| United Paragon Mining Co. | 0.4 | 0.4 | 0.35 | 0.35 | 750,000 |
| Vulcan Ind'l | 0.74 | 0.74 | 0.7 | 0.7 | 1,480,000 |
| **OIL** | | | | | |
| Basic Consolidated Inc. | 0.29 | 0.29 | 0.29 | 0.29 | 2,810,000 |
| Oriental Pet. & Min. A | 0.012 | 0.012 | 0.012 | 0.012 | 456,500,000 |
| Oriental Pet. & Min. B | 0.013 | 0.013 | 0.012 | 0.013 | 78,100,000 |
| The Philodrill Corp. A | 1.36 | 1.44 | 1.28 | 1.3 | 3,277,000 |
| The Philodrill Corp. B | 1.38 | 1.42 | 1.28 | 1.3 | 1,938,000 |
| Petroenergy Res. Corp. | 17.75 | 17.75 | 16.25 | 16.75 | 1,848,500 |
| **PREFERRED** | | | | | |
| PLDT (10% Pref) Series V | 10.5 | 10.5 | 10.5 | 10.5 | 100 |
| PLDT (10% Pref) Series Y | 10.5 | 10.5 | 10.5 | 10.5 | 100 |
| **WARRANTS, PHIL. DEPOSIT RECEIPTS, ETC.** | | | | | |
| ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (PDR) | 16.5 | 16.5 | 16.25 | 16.5 | 432,500 |

## CURRENCIES

| May 19, 2006<br>Country | Unit | Euro Equivalent | Dollar Equivalent | Peso Equivalent |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| United States | Dollar | 0.779606 | 1.000000 | 52.5720 |
| Japan | Yen | 0.007030 | 0.009017 | 0.4740 |
| United Kingdom | Pound | 1.474078 | 1.890800 | 99.4031 |
| Hong Kong | Dollar | 0.100543 | 0.128967 | 6.7801 |
| Switzerland | Franc | 0.645262 | 0.827678 | 43.5127 |
| Canada | Dollar | 0.695332 | 0.891902 | 46.8891 |
| Singapore | Dollar | 0.494172 | 0.633874 | 33.3240 |
| Australia | Dollar | 0.597399 | 0.766284 | 40.2851 |
| Bahrain | Dinar* | 2.068303 | 2.653012 | 139.4741 |
| Saudi Arabia | Rial | 0.207933 | 0.266716 | 14.0218 |
| Brunei | Dollar | 0.492611 | 0.631872 | 33.2188 |
| Indonesia | Rupiah | 0.000085 | 0.000109 | 0.0057 |
| Thailand | Baht | 0.020446 | 0.026226 | 1.3788 |
| UAE | Dirham | 0.212287 | 0.272301 | 14.3154 |
| Euro | Euro | 1.000000 | 1.282700 | 67.4341 |
| Argentina | Peso | 0.255441 | 0.327654 | 17.2254 |
| Brazil | Real | 0.354447 | 0.454649 | 23.9018 |
| Denmark | Kroner | 0.134176 | 0.172108 | 9.0481 |
| India | Rupee | 0.017225 | 0.022095 | 1.1616 |
| Malaysia | Ringgit | 0.216316 | 0.277469 | 14.5871 |
| Mexico | New Peso | 0.069823 | 0.089562 | 4.7085 |
| New Zealand | Dollar | 0.486311 | 0.623791 | 32.7939 |
| Norway | Kroner | 0.128172 | 0.164406 | 8.6432 |
| Pakistan | Rupee | 0.013002 | 0.016678 | 0.8768 |
| South Africa | Rand | 0.121123 | 0.155364 | 8.1678 |
| Korea | Won | 0.000823 | 0.001056 | 0.0555 |
| Sweden | Kroner | 0.106833 | 0.137035 | 7.2042 |
| Syria | Pound | 0.015018 | 0.019264 | 1.0127 |
| Taiwan | Nt Dollar | 0.024481 | 0.031402 | 1.6509 |
| Venezuela | Bolivar | 0.000363 | 0.000466 | 0.0245 |

'BEST COPY AVAILABLE'

# Interest payments on gov't debts down 8%

By Michelle V. Remo

THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT'S spending for interest payments declined by 8 percent to P24.68 billion in April from year-ago level.

In April 2005, interest payments on government debts stood at P26.92 billion. Data from the Department of Finance showed that of the P24.68 billion, interest payments on domestic liabilities accounted for P18.22 billion while those on foreign obligations reached P6.46 billion.

Domestic debts are composed of liabilities arising from the issuance of government securities such as Treasury bills and bonds. Foreign debts are obtained through the flotation of sovereign bonds in the international market and official development assistance (ODA) provided by multilateral and bilateral agencies.

The Philippines' biggest sources of ODAs are the Japan Bank for International Cooperation, the Asian Development Bank and the World Bank.

The amount of interest paid in April brought interest payments made in the first four months of the year to P128.502 billion.

While interest payments declined year-on-year in April, the January-to-April figure was 14 percent higher than the P112.44 recorded during the same period a year ago.

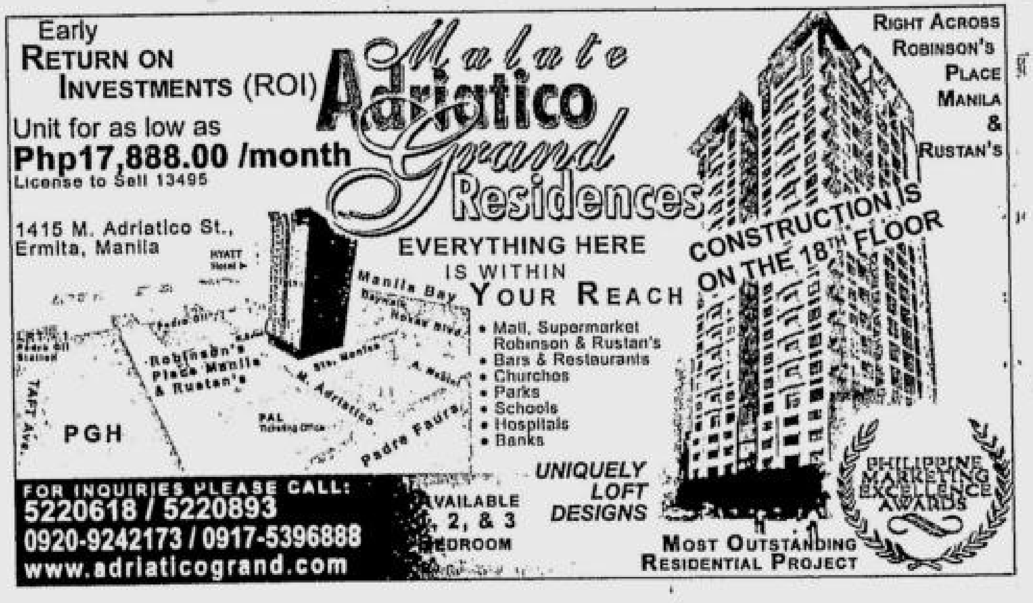
The increase in interest payments in the four-month period was due to the bond swap undertaken by the Bureau of the Treasury in February. Under the bond swap, the government exchanged newly issued government securities with old ones that were about to mature.

The swap was a debt-management strategy, as it extended the average maturity of the government's domestic debts by more than a year, the BTr had said.

Although the government did not have to actually shell out cash for the bond swap—because it retired old securities using newly issued ones—the retirement of the bonds had to be recorded in paper as a payment.

The DOF said the government has adopted various strategies to manage the country's debts. One strategy was the shifting of borrowings toward more domestic than foreign to help reduce the government's exposure to foreign exchange risks that could further bloat the debts.

Another strategy, finance officials said, was to focus foreign borrowings on ODAs rather than commercial. This is because ODAs impose much lower interest rates, the said.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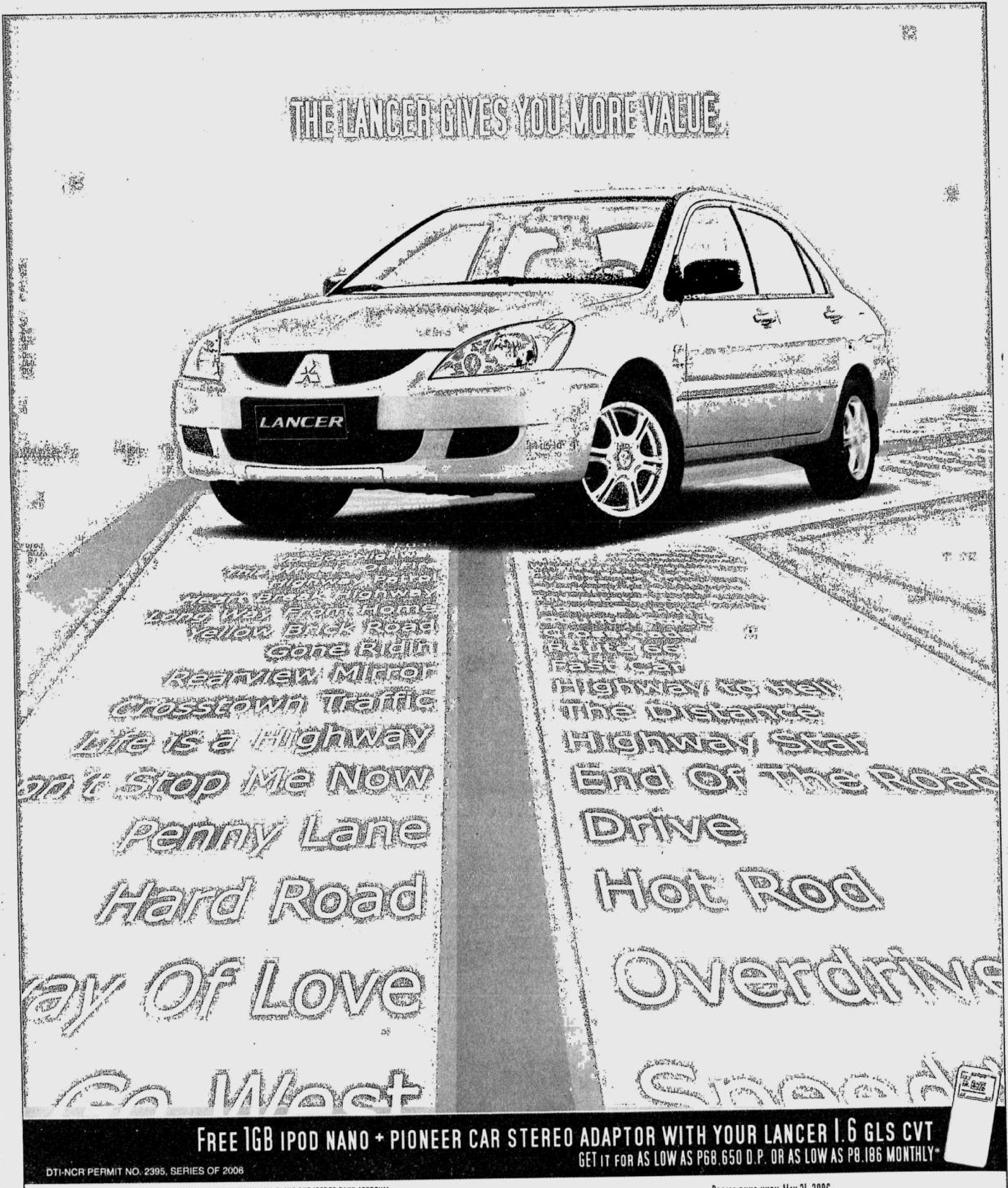

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# LandBank plan to tap World Bank loan OKd

## $103M in ODA for relending to local government units

TETANGCO

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE BANGKO SENTRAL NG PILIPINAS has approved the planned $103 million worth of borrowing of state-owned Land Bank of the Philippines from the World Bank.

The soft loan was earmarked for a strategic local government development investment project.

In a briefing yesterday, BSP Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. said the policy-making Monetary Board had approved the fresh official development assistance for Landbank during its Thursday meeting.

He added that the loan would be denominated in Japanese yen equivalent to Y11.7 billion. It would have a 20-year maturity and would carry an interest rate based on Japan Libor.

"It will be for relending to local government units," Tetangco said.

The loan is part of the $500 million worth of ODA loans being negotiated by Landbank with various multilateral and bilateral lenders, which were aimed at boosting the bank's capability to lend.

Landbank is scouting for cheaper sources of funds to be able to offer lower lending rates to its borrowers.

Other big ODA funding being negotiated by Landbank were: $113 million from the World Bank in private sector development support for rural development; $150 million from Japan Bank for International Cooperation for agriculture enterprise development, and $100 million from the Asian Development Bank as credit support for regional development.

There are other small lending windows sought from World Bank and Kfw.

Landbank, the country's fourth biggest bank, posted a net profit of P908 million in the first quarter or 19 percent higher than a year ago on higher revenues from loans and investments, as well as prudent management of expenses.

The bank has consistently contributed to the national coffers by remitting cash and stock dividends. It also absorbs the administrative cost incurred by the bank in implementing the agrarian reform program using its internally generated income.

PNB
ASSET MANAGEMENT SECTOR
We manage for best value.

PUBLIC AUCTION

JUNE 7, 2006 • WEDNESDAY • 2:00 PM • MOLAVE HOTEL, Osmeña St., Tagum City, Davao del Norte

DAVAO DEL NORTE

NEW CORELLA

LOT 1 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 774.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 99.00 sqm.
Lot 1090-B-2-C-6-A & 1090-B-2-C-6-B Romualdez Ext.
Minimum Bid Price : 437,250.00

LOT 2 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 1,000.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 102.00 sqm.
Lot 2529 Purok 2 Roxas Ave., Pob-Lacion
Minimum Bid Price : 435,000.00

LOT 3 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 338.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 69.00 sqm.
Lot 1089-B-5-D-6-E Purok 6, Pob.
Minimum Bid Price : 170,400.00

LOT 4 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 704.00 sqm.
Lot No. 2560 Poblacion
Minimum Bid Price : 53,200.00

LOT 5 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 1,000.00 sqm.
Lot 1918 Magsaysay Ave. Pob.
Minimum Bid Price : 64,000.00

LOT 6 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 1,000.00 sqm.
Lot 1865 Magsay-Say Ave.Purok 5
Minimum Bid Price : 64,000.00

LOT 7 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 1,000.00 sqm.
Lot 2112 Fr. Gomez St., Poblacion
Minimum Bid Price : 48,000.00

LOT 8 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 1,412.00 sqm.
Lots 2292&2291 Bonifacio St. Pob.
Minimum Bid Price : 73,600.00

LOT 9 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 1,000.00 sqm.
Lot 1864 MagsaysayAve., Purok 5
Minimum Bid Price : 59,500.00

PANABO

LOT 10 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 300.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 217.00 sqm.
Lot B-8-G-1 Gagangohan
Minimum Bid Price : 497,250.00

LOT 11 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 500.00 sqm.
Lot 170-C Road Lot Purok 6,Interior, San Francisco
Minimum Bid Price : 84,000.00

LOT 12 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 900.00 sqm.
Lot 6225-E Road Lot, Purok 6, San Vicente
Minimum Bid Price : 288,000.00

TAGUM CITY

LOT 13 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 769.00 sqm.
Floor Area. 90.00 sqm.
Lot 586-D-5 Bermudes Subd., Apokon
Minimum Bid Price : 899,100.00

LOT 14 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 418.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 174.00 sqm.
Lot 3-C Interior Apokon Road
Minimum Bid Price : 711,750.00

LOT 15 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 1,004.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 75.00 sqm.
Lots 4488-D-1 & 4488-D-2 Purok 1, Rizal, Canocotan
Minimum Bid Price : 384,000.00

LOT 16 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 250.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 48.00 sqm.
6441-C-5-D-5-M-1 Purok 3, Durian, San Miguel
Minimum Bid Price : 225,000.00

LOT 17 - W/ MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 1,254.00 sqm.
Lot 387-C-3-C2-F-3, Daneco Rd., Tipaz
Minimum Bid Price : 423,000.00

LOT 18 - W/ MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 1,202.00 sqm.
Lot 387-C-3-C-2-F-2, Daneco Rd. Tipaz
Minimum Bid Price : 405,750.00

LOT 19 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 789.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 102.00 sqm.
Lot 401-C-2-B-10-A Doctolero Ave., Tipaz
Minimum Bid Price : 1,254,000.00

LOT 20 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 108.00 sqm.
Floor Area 180.00 sqm.
Lot 12597-A Osmena Ext.
Minimum Bid Price 639,750.00

LOT 21 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 344.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 133.00 sqm.
Lot 406-G-2-B-3-B-3B-1-A Purok Durian, Seminary Drive
Minimum Bid Price : 672,750.00

LOT 22 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 170.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 91.00 sqm.
Lot 7-B-2-A Subd. Rd. Purok Malinawon, Zafra Subd., Briz District
Minimum Bid Price : 576,000.00

LOT 23 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 209.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 59.00 sqm.
Lot 59 Palmera Subd., Km48, Canocotan
Minimum Bid Price : 313,600.00

LOT 24 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 600.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 225.00 sqm.
Lot 488 H-2-E-5-B-2-A, Gante Road, Pioneer Ave.
Minimum Bid Price :1,246,500.00

LOT 25 - W/ MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 500.00 sqm.
Lot 708-6 Manga I-B, Purok Bayanihan, Visayan Vill.
Minimum Bid Price : 525,000.00

LOT 26 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 900.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 822.00 sqm.
Lot 708-T-1 Existing Rd. Purok Bayanihan, Visayan Vill.
Minimum Bid Price : 1,240,000.00

LOT 27 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 450.00 sqm.
Lot 58 Narzal Con-Concepcion Subd. Upr La Union, Mankilam
Minimum Bid Price : 68,800.00

LOT 28 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 1,100.00 sqm.
Lot 488-F-4-C-4-B-1 Gante Road 3
Minimum Bid Price : 616,000.00

LOT 29 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 485.00 sqm.
Lot 387-G-15 D. Mencidor Subd., Tipaz
Minimum Bid Price : 102,000.00

LOT 30 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 517.00 sqm.
L8 B4 Purok 2-A, Tandang Sora St., Canocotan
Minimum Bid Price : 103,200.00

LOT 31 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 518.00 sqm.
L9 B4 Purok 2-A, Tandang Sora St., Canocotan
Minimum Bid Price : 104,000.00

LOT 32 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 513.00 sqm.
L11 B4 Purok 2-A, Tandang Sora St., Canocotan
Minimum Bid Price : 102,400.00

LOT 33 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 512.00 sqm.
L12 B4 Purok 2-A, Tandang Sora St., Canocotan
Minimum Bid Price : 102,400.00

LOT 34 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 515.00 sqm.
Lot 5 Blk. 4 Purok 2-A, Tandang Sora St., Canocotan
Minimum Bid Price : 103,200.00

LOT 35 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 496.00 sqm.
Lot 5 Blk. 2 Purok 2-A,Tandang Sora St., Canocotan
Minimum Bid Price : 99,200.00

LOT 36 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 500.00 sqm.
Lot 5 Blk. 1 Purok 2-A, Tandang Sora St., Canocotan
Minimum Bid Price : 96,000.00

LOT 37 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 500.00 sqm.
Lot 4 Blk. 1 Purok 2-A, Tandang Sora St., Canocotan
Minimum Bid Price : 100,000.00

LOT 38 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area. 500.00 sqm.
L10 B2 Purok 2-A, Tandang Sora St., Canocotan
Minimum Bid Price : 108,000.00

LOT 39 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 500.00 sqm.
L3 B3 Purok 2-A, Tandang Sora St., Canocotan
Minimum Bid Price : 100,000.00

LOT 40 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 500.00 sqm.
L4 B3 Purok 2-A, Tandang Sora St., Canocotan
Minimum Bid Price : 100,000.00

LOT 41 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 500.00 sqm.
L5 B3 Purok 2-A, Tandang Sora St., Canocotan
Minimum Bid Price : 100,000.00

LOT 42 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 500.00 sqm.
L9 B3 Purok 2-A, Tandang Sora St., Canocotan
Minimum Bid Price : 100,000.00

LOT 43 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 514.00 sqm.
L10 B2 Purok 2-A, Tandang Sora St., Canocotan
Minimum Bid Price : 103,200.00

LOT 44 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 514.00 sqm.
L5 B5 Purok 2-A, Tandang Sora St., Canocotan
Minimum Bid Price : 94,576.00

LOT 45 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 514.00 sqm.
L6 B5 Purok 2-A, Tandang Sora St., Canocotan
Minimum Bid Price : 103,200.00

LOT 46 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 516.00 sqm.
L15 B5 Purok 2-A, Tandang Sora St., Canocotan
Minimum Bid Price : 103,200.00

LOT 47 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 500.00 sqm.
L6 B6 Purok 2-A, Tandang Sora St., Canocotan
Minimum Bid Price : 100,000.00

LOT 48 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 500.00 sqm.
L7 B6 Purok 2-A, Tandang Sora St., Canocotan
Minimum Bid Price : 100,000.00

LOT 49 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 517.00 sqm.
L14 B5 Purok 2-A, Tandang Sora St., Canocotan
Minimum Bid Price : 95,128.00

LOT 50 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 500.00 sqm.
L8 B6 Purok 2-A, Tandang Sora St., Canocotan
Minimum Bid Price : 100,000.00

LOT 51 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 299.00 sqm.
Lot 5 Blk 10 Purok 09, Norjam Subd., La Filipina
Minimum Bid Price : 84,000.00

LOT 52 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 209.00 sqm.
Lot 14 Blk 10 Purok 09, Norjam Subd., La Filipina
Minimum Bid Price : 58,400.00

LOT 53 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 1,058.00 sqm.
Lot 28 Blk 4 Purok Liwliwa, Baca, Cuambogan
Minimum Bid Price : 169,600.00

DAVAO DEL SUR

BANSALAN

LOT 54 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 153.50 sqm.
Floor Area: 356.00 sqm.
Lot 30-A Blk. 6 Viacrusis St.
Minimum Bid Price : 1,377,000.00

LOT 55 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 325.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 594.00 sqm.
Lot 5 Blk. 7 Viacrusis St.
Minimum Bid Price : 2,477,700.00

LOT 56 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 367.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 183.00 sqm.
Lot 19 Blk 3 Lily St.
Minimum Bid Price : 976,800.00

LOT 57 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 300.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 300.00 sqm.
Lot 9 Blk. 6 J.P. Laurel St.
Minimum Bid Price : 1,104,000.00

LOT 58 - AGRILAND
Lot Area: 10,000.00 sqm.
Lot 5296-A New Clarin
Minimum Bid Price : 140,000.00

DAVAO CITY

LOT 59 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 2,747.00 sqm.
Lot 7 Bangkal, Talomo
Minimum Bid Price : 1,153,740.00

LOT 60 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 10,092.00 sqm.
Lot 945-B, Sitio Escuela Bula, Catalunan Grande, Talomo District
Minimum Bid Price : 454,500.00

LOT 61 - W/ MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 2,000.00 sqm.
Lot 11 Blk. 3 Ventosa Subd., Bacaca
Minimum Bid Price : 330,000.00

LOT 62 - W/ MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 2,000.00 sqm.
Lot 14 Blk. 4 Ventosa Subd., Bacaca
Minimum Bid Price : 330,000.00

LOT 63 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 134.00 sqm.
Lot 5 No 83 Buhangin Road, Buhangin Dist.
Minimum Bid Price : 402,000.00

DIGOS CITY

LOT 64 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 4,940.00 sqm.
Lot 12-G-9-F Subd. Road, Cagape Subd., San Jose
Minimum Bid Price : 1,976,000.00

LOT 65 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 478.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 37.00 sqm.
Lot 12613-C-4 Aurora 6Th St.
Minimum Bid Price : 441,600.00

LOT 66 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 726.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 297.00 sqm.
L3B6 Del Pilar St.
Minimum Bid Price : 1,541,850.00

LOT 67 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 200.00 sqm.
Lot 11 Blk. 3 Ruparan
Minimum Bid Price : 32,000.00

LOT 68 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 197.00 sqm.
Lot 14 Blk 3 Ruparan
Minimum Bid Price : 31,520.00

LOT 69 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 200.00 sqm.
Lot 6 Blk. 4 Ruparan
Minimum Bid Price : 32,000.00

LOT 70 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 200.00 sqm.
Lot 7 Blk. 4 Ruparan
Minimum Bid Price : 32,000.00

LOT 71 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 200.00 sqm.
Lot 8 Blk. 4 Ruparan
Minimum Bid Price : 32,000.00

LOT 72 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 200.00 sqm.
Lot 9 Blk. 4 Ruparan
Minimum Bid Price : 32,000.00

LOT 73 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 200.00 sqm.
Lot 11 Blk. 4 Ruparan
Minimum Bid Price : 32,000.00

LOT 74 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 200.00 sqm.
Lot 12 Blk. 4 Ruparan
Minimum Bid Price : 32,000.00

LOT 75 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 197.00 sqm.
Lot 13 Blk. 4 Ruparan
Minimum Bid Price : 31,520.00

LOT 76 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 197.00 sqm.
Lot 14 Blk. 4 Ruparan
Minimum Bid Price : 31,520.00

LOT 77 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 222.00 sqm.
Lot 1 Blk. 5 Ruparan
Minimum Bid Price : 35,520.00

LOT 78 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 210.00 sqm.
Lot 2 Blk. 5 Ruparan
Minimum Bid Price : 33,600.00

LOT 79 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 210.00 sqm.
Lot 3 Blk 5 Ruparan
Minimum Bid Price : 33,600.00

LOT 80 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 222.00 sqm.
Lot 4 Blk. 5 Ruparan
Minimum Bid Price : 35,520.00

LOT 81 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 195.00 sqm.
Lot 13 Blk. 6 Ruparan
Minimum Bid Price : 31,200.00

LOT 82 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 198.00 sqm.
Lot 17 Blk. 7 Ruparan
Minimum Bid Price : 31,680.00

LOT 83 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 966.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 57.00 sqm.
Lot 12-G-9-E-1 Subd Road, Cagepe Subd., San Jose
Minimum Bid Price : 590,250.00

STA. MARIA

LOT 84 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 1,800.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 259.00 sqm.
Lot 7273-F-1-A Lembino Subd., Poblacion
Minimum Bid Price : 1,276,000.00

DAVAO ORIENTAL

BAGANGA

LOT 85 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 190.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 267.00 sqm.
Lot 62-C Poblacion, Baganga
Minimum Bid Price : 796,500.00

BANAYBANAY

LOT 86 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 395.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 88.00 sqm.
Lot 2-G-6 Road Lot 2-G-9 Purok 7-A(Molave)
Minimum Bid Price : 417,000.00

LOT 87 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 1,039.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 153.00 sqm.
Lot No. 5 Nat'L Highway Brgy. Piso
Minimum Bid Price : 604,000.00

LOT 88 - AGRILAND
WITHDRAWN
Lot Area [illegible]
Lot [illegible] San Vicente
Minimum Bid Price : 130,200.00

CATEEL

LOT 89 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 300.00 sqm.
Floor Area. 123.00 sqm.
Lot 5 Lopez Jaena Extn. St., Poblacion
Minimum Bid Price : 575,250.00

LUPON

LOT 90 - AGRILAND
Lot Area: 5,000.00 sqm.
Lot 2515-B Brgy. Ilangay
Minimum Bid Price : 650,000.00

LOT 91 - AGRILAND
Lot Area: 42,008.00 sqm.
Lot No. 2435-A Brgy. Ilangay
Minimum Bid Price : 546,000.00

LOT 92 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
WITHDRAWN
Lot Area: 207.00 sqm.
Floor Area: [illegible]
Lot [illegible] Purok Immaculada, Interior Aguinaldo St.
Minimum Bid Price : 127,500.00

LOT 93 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area. 141.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 108.00 sqm.
Lot 2007 Aguinaldo St., Baybay
Minimum Bid Price : 593,750.00

LOT 94 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 2,231.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 293.00 sqm.
Lot No. 1 Comara St., Pob
Minimum Bid Price : 1,695,750.00

MANAY

LOT 95 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 790.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 130.00 sqm.
Lot 1579-A Nat'L Highway, San Ignacio
Minimum Bid Price : 174,600.00

LOT 96 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 5,000.00 sqm.
Floor Area. 304.00 sqm.
Lot 290-A Nat'L Highway
Minimum Bid Price : 1,919,400.00

MATI

LOT 97 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
WITHDRAWN
Lot Area 301.00 sqm.
Floor Area [illegible]
Lot [illegible] Subd. Rd. Lemento Vill., Calagundian
Minimum Bid Price : 146,250.00

LOT 98 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 240.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 173.00 sqm.
Lot 18 & 19 Blk. 3 Camia St., Don Luis Vill., Madang
Minimum Bid Price : 428,250.00

LOT 99 - W/ MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 600.00 sqm.
Lot 5312-E Interior Lot W/O Rrow Purok Pakikisama, Pahamutang Roadao
Minimum Bid Price : 68,000.00

LOT 100 - W/ MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area. 378.00 sqm.
Lot 1 Blk. 2 Road Lot 1 Lower Kapayasao
Minimum Bid Price : 84,750.00

LOT 101 - W/ MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 2,821.00 sqm.
Lot D-4-B Interco Dnvoao
Minimum Bid Price : 571,500.00

LOT 102 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 464.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 140.00 sqm.
Lot 600-B-2-G-1 Interior Lot W/O Road Right Of Way Interior Dahcor Roadao
Minimum Bid Price : 154,700.00

LOT 103 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 20,000.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 160.00 sqm.
Lot 1-B & Lot 1-D Brgy. Road Upper Kapayas, Don Marlin Marundanao
Minimum Bid Price : 996,000.00

LOT 104 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area. 179.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 64.00 sqm.
Lot 3814-I-3 Along Don S. Garcia St., Upper Salazar
Minimum Bid Price : 332,100.00

LOT 105 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 2,276.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 120.00 sqm.
Lot 3-A-7-B-1 Interior Lot W/O Row Bitanagan, Brgy. Don Marlin Marundan
Minimum Bid Price : 163,800.00

LOT 106 - W/ MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 448.00 sqm.
Lot D-7-G Purok Malambo-On, Interior Interco Drive,Matiao
Minimum Bid Price : 80,000.00

LOT 107 - W/ MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 500.00 sqm.
Lot 5364-E (5424) Alley Lower Kapayasao
Minimum Bid Price : 117,000.00

LOT 108 - W/ MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 500.00 sqm.
L5364-A Alley Lower Kapayasao
Minimum Bid Price : 117,000.00

LOT 109 - W/ MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 551.00 sqm.
L5364-H Alley Lower Kapayasao
Minimum Bid Price : 129,000.00

LOT 110 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 524.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 532.00 sqm.
Lot 3 Blk. 14 Municipal Road, Sto. Nino, Poblacion
Minimum Bid Price : 3,905,450.00

LOT 111 - AGRILAND
Lot Area: 15,791.00 sqm.
Lot No. 464 Lawigan
Minimum Bid Price : 75,050.00

LOT 112 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 886.00 sqm.
Lot 2-D-7-I Madang
Minimum Bid Price : 355,000.00

LOT 113 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 120.00 sqm.
Lot 8 Blk. 4 Orchid St., Don Luis Vill., Madang
Minimum Bid Price : 57,600.00

LOT 114 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 209.00 sqm.
Lot 2-D-7-D Subd. Road, Madang
Minimum Bid Price . 83,600.00

LOT 115 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 201.00 sqm.
Lot 2-D-7-F Subd. Road, Madang
Minimum Bid Price . 80,400.00

LOT 116 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 238.00 sqm.
Lot 2-D-7-G Subd. Road, Madang
Minimum Bid Price . 95,200.00

LOT 117 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 499.00 sqm.
Lot 1777-B Subd. Road, Lower Kapayas,Matiao
Minimum Bid Price : 100,000.00

LOT 118 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 500.00 sqm.
Lot 1777-O Brgy. Road, Lower Kapayas,Matiao
Minimum Bid Price : 100,000.00

LOT 119 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 486.00 sqm.
Lot 1777-J Alley Lower Kapayasao
Minimum Bid Price . 105,000.00

LOT 120 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 2,104.00 sqm.
Lot 4-L-2-I Adjacent To Lopez Vill Subd.
Minimum Bid Price : 442,000.00

LOT 121 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 216.00 sqm.
Lot 6 Blk. 14 Sibala Vill.
Minimum Bid Price : 43,200.00

LOT 122 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 221.00 sqm.
Lot 8 Blk. 14 Sibala Vill.
Minimum Bid Price : 44,000.00

LOT 123 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 223.00 sqm.
Lot 19 Blk. 12 Sibala Vill.
Minimum Bid Price : 45,000.00

LOT 124 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area. 499.00 sqm.
Lot 1777-H Road Lot 1777-T Lower Kapayasao
Minimum Bid Price : 99,800.00

LOT 125 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area. 499.00 sqm.
Lot 1777-G Road Lot 1777-T Lower Kapayasao
Minimum Bid Price : 99,800.00

COMPOSTELA VALLEY

PANTUKAN

LOT 126 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 3,761.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 126.00 sqm.
Lot 1526-B Purok 5, Pagakpak, Bonga-Bong
Minimum Bid Price : 650,250.00

LOT 127 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 334.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 108.00 sqm.
Lot 3-B Caballero St., Kingking
Minimum Bid Price : 489,600.00

LOT 128 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 20,000.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 229.00 sqm.
Lot 13020-A Purok 2,Provincial Rd
Minimum Bid Price 5,433,750.00

MACO

LOT 129 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 172.00 sqm.
Floor Area. 113.00 sqm.
Lot 18 Dao St., Pob
Minimum Bid Price 198,900.00

MONKAYO

LOT 130 - W/ MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 801.00 sqm.
Lot 1795 Purok 8, Papaya St.
Minimum Bid Price : 48,000.00

LOT 131 - W/ MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 800.00 sqm.
Lot 2375 Judge Cruz St.
Minimum Bid Price : 51,200.00

LOT 132 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area. 800.30 sqm.
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Lot 19 Blk 10 Prk 3-A Buenavista Hts, Km 100, Linoan
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Lot Area: 1,997.00 sqm.
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Lot Area: 400.00 sqm.
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Lot Area: 707.00 sqm.
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## ROUND-UP

### Weak revenues dragged down PHC profit in Q1

PHILCOMSAT HOLDINGS CORP. SAID WEAK revenues pulled down its net income by 51 percent to P1.9 million in the first quarter, from P3.9 million in the same period last year.

In its report filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), PHC said revenues—consisting of rental income, interest on housing loans, rental and other income—slumped to P596,898 in March this year from P765,249 in the same period last year.

Expenses also grew to P12.9 million from P12.3 million, with most items—including wages, utilities, and audit and legal fees—showing increases.

To boost profitability, PHC said in its financial report that it was planning to venture into real-estate development. It is presently in talks for a joint venture arrangement with a local property firm involved in medium-cost housing in Pasig. It did not identify the property firm.

PHC is also planning to venture into the telecommunications business with its mother firm, Philcomsat.

PHC also sees its call center business growing to 500 seats this year. In 2004, PHC invested P80 million in a 120-seat telemarketing project through a wholly-owned unit, Telecommunications Center Inc. (TCI). *Elizabeth L. Sanchez*

### Citigroup starts search for top entrepreneurs

CITIGROUP yesterday launched its fourth annual search for outstanding Filipino microentrepreneurs to award people who make use of little capital and resources to create wealth for themselves and their communities.

The Citigroup 2006 Microentrepreneur of the Year (MOTY) Awards is implemented in partnership with the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas and Microfinance Council of the Philippines Inc.

"Our goal is simple. We believe that one of the best ways to help microentrepreneurs is to actively tell their stories and promote their success in the wider community, creating role models and leaders to inspire others," said Citigroup country officer Sanjiv Vohra.

The MOTY program has two award categories. The Masikap Award is open to those who successfully started a business that became a reliable source of income for the family. The Maunlad Award is open to those who grew a business to a level already generating employment for people other than family members.

This year's board of judges is composed of Vohra, BSP Governor Amando Tetangco Jr., Development Bank of the Philippines chair Antonino Alindogan Jr., Ayala Land Inc. chair Fernando Zobel de Ayala, SM Investments Corp. vice chair Tessie Sy-Coson, JG Summit Holdings Inc. executive vice chair Lance Gokongwei, RFM Corp. Jose Ma. Concepcion III, Philippine Daily Inquirer chair Marixi Rufino-Prieto, Stacey Morse, economist Mario Lamberte and University of Asia and the Pacific's director for entrepreneurial management Jose Navarro.

### RP resumes shipment of coco products to ME

THE COUNTRY HAS RESUMED exporting processed coconut to the Middle East following the recent lifting of the ban on this product.

This will enable to regain the $37 million in annual revenue lost in the last six years due to the ban.

Philippine Coconut Authority Deputy Administrator Arturo Liquete Jr. said the country had started exporting again to the Middle East in late October.

The Middle East imposed the ban due to a plant disease cadang-cadang that affected Philippine coconut in 1998. *Christine A. Gaylican*

### VCO export soars 153%

THE EXPORT VOLUME OF VIRGIN COCONUT surged 153 percent in 2005 while that of nata de coco shrank, according to the Philippine Coconut Authority.

PCA data show that 448 metric tons of VCNO were shipped out last year compared to 177 MT in 2004.

In the same comparative period, earnings from VCNO exports shot up 175 percent to $1.52 million from $553,000.

The export market for VCNO, touted for its therapeutic and health benefits, expanded to 14 countries last year from eight in 2004.

The United States got most of the shipments with 419 MT or 93.5 percent although this meant a contraction from the previous year's 96-percent market share.

Markets outside the US include South Africa, South Korea, Singapore, Australia, Malaysia, Japan and the Netherlands.

New markets were tapped in Ireland, United Kingdom, Germany, Sweden, Canada, Saudi Arabia, Hong Kong and New Zealand.

Export of liquid coconut milk was almost unchanged at 2,062 MT but earnings declined $13.6 percent to $2.35 million.

The US was the leading destination with 829 MT or 40.2 percent of total. Japan was second with 781 MT or 38 percent.

Other significant markets for coconut milk were the Netherlands with 160 MT; Hawaii, 62 MT; Jordan, 61 MT; France, 57 MT. The rest bought volumes lower than 30 MT. *Ronnel W. Domingo*

## Shares . . .

From page B1

Losers outnumbered gainers 62 to 28, while 48 stocks were unchanged.

The broader all-shares index fell 12.68 points to 1,468.37.

"Follow-through selling ruled (yesterday's) session. The market is still looking for a more comfortable level," said Lawrence de Leon of Accord Capital Equities Inc.

Dealers said further increases in US interest rates were not only expected to dampen consumption in the biggest market for Philippine exports, but eventually prompt the central bank here to start raising interest rates to maintain the attraction of peso-denominated assets. *AFP*

# A salute to our valued partner

FORTUNE
Tobacco Corporation

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*Editor* **Cesar D. Mangawang**
*Assistant Editor* **Stella O. Gonzales**

## Tobacco firms use deception to promote products—WHO

By Tessa R. Salazar

DEADLY IN ANY FORM or disguise" is the battle cry of the World Health Organization in its global antitobacco campaign to be launched on May 31.

The WHO's World No Tobacco 2006 campaign warns that the tobacco industry is still using "lights" and "mild" or "low tar" campaigns. For the youth, the industry employs fruity flavors, a move WHO says offers buyers the "illusion of safety."

"They continue to take their old and new customers to more insidious levels of deception by promoting and selling new products disguised under healthier names, fruity flavors or more attractive-looking packaging," WHO said in a statement.

### Real effects

Dr. Jessica C. de Leon of the Department of Health said tobacco advertising "links tobacco to many things, including glamour, extreme sports lifestyles, culture, anything that has nothing to do with tobacco."

But, she said, the real effects of tobacco on the lungs are "completely opposite to the sexy models and campaigns" endorsing the product.

The World No Tobacco Day 2006 campaign encourages governments to strictly regulate the sale of tobacco products.

De Leon said that in the Philippines, the warning label on tobacco packs would soon be shifted to the front of the pack instead of on the sides.

"Eventually the country's antitobacco advocates want pictograms [on the package], but it's not in the law yet," she said.

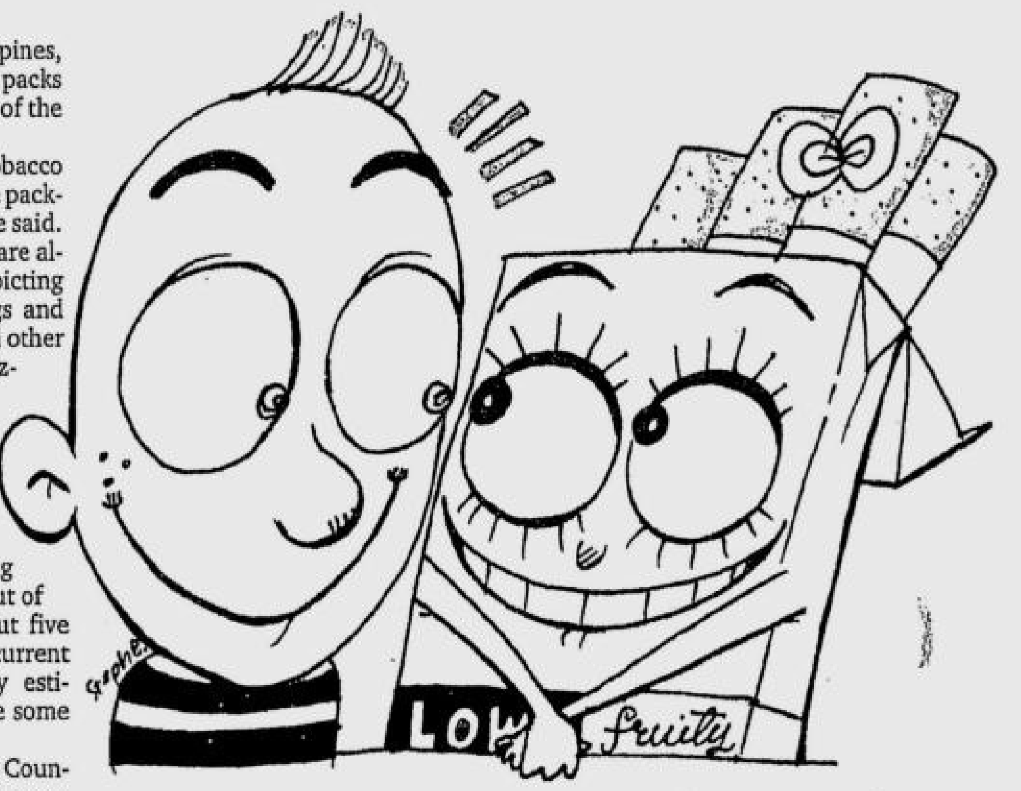
"In other countries, pictograms are already used. These are pictures depicting the effect of tobacco on the lungs and teeth, on children with asthma and other congenital anomalies, and hazardous effects such as cancer," she said.

### 5 M deaths annually

Health experts have identified tobacco as the second major cause of death in the world, being responsible for the death of one out of every 10 adults worldwide (about five million deaths each year). If current smoking patterns continue, they estimate that by 2020, it would cause some 10 million deaths each year.

Dr. Charlotte S. dela Cruz of the Countryside Rehab Med Clinic recently conducted a lecture in the INQUIRER offices on the different problems brought about by smoking.

Among the less known effects of smoking, she said, are hair loss, cataracts, wrinkling, hearing loss, skin cancer, tooth decay, emphysema, osteoporosis, stomach ulcers, discolored fingers, uterine cancer and miscarriages, deformed sperm and psoriasis.



Another side effect of long-term smoking is Buerger's Disease, an inflammation of the arteries, veins and nerves in the legs, leading to restricted blood flow. It can lead to gangrene and amputation of the affected areas.

Smoking can also cause reproductive disturbances in women, fetal abnormalities and even death during pregnancy and low birth weight in infants.

The DOH said nonsmokers who are exposed to second hand smoke are prone to heart disease, lung cancer, respiratory infections and asthmatic bronchitis (in infants and children), and chronic irritation of the eyes, nose and throat (especially among children).

## *Older women 'quitters' more successful*

WOMEN WHO ARE 65 YEARS OLD or older are better at quitting smoking than their male counterparts, and new findings show the older men and women are generally better at staying off cigarettes compared with younger smokers.

"Until now, there hasn't been a concerted effort to look at this older population, and physicians generally make less efforts recommending older patients to stop smoking," said Dr. Heather E. Whitson, from Duke University Medical Center, North Carolina.

Although the hazards of smoking are well known, it has been difficult to demonstrate that quitting at an advanced age improves patient outcomes, and the general perception is that best results are achieved when people stop smoking early.

"But what our study tells us is that we do need to be aggressive with this older population too, because it's never too late to benefit from quitting," Whitson said.

Results of Whitson and her colleagues' study, published in the Journal of the American Geriatrics Society, show that over the 10-year study period, only 16 percent of 573 elderly smokers who quit returned to smoking.

This contrasts sharply with previous findings in younger populations, in which the recidivism rate was 30 percent to 45 percent within two years of quitting. *Reuters*

## Redefining high blood pressure

**MEDICAL FILES**

By Rafael R. Castillo, MD

NEW YORK—A NEW POSITION paper discussed during the ongoing convention of the American Society of Hypertension (ASH) here suggests that blood pressure should be viewed as a continuous lifelong risk factor and should be considered in the context of the total cardiovascular risk, and not as an isolated risk factor that can be treated on a piecemeal basis.

It may sound like a paradox but one can have hypertensive cardiovascular disease (CVD) even before one's BP is considered significantly elevated.

### Complex process

According to ASH president Thomas Giles, MD, hypertension-related CVD is a complex process that begins before BP values reach levels currently used to define hypertension. Hence, hypertension cannot simply be diagnosed when the BP crosses certain predefined threshold.

"The problem with a threshold-based definition of hypertension is that it fails to identify a large group of patients who have subclinical CVD that may precede more severe chronic BP elevations," says Dr. Giles.

Many cardiovascular diseases including hypertension, diabetes and hypercholesterolemia are now being continuously scrutinized as to their more appropriate definition which can alert the attending physician to treat these disorders earlier, before serious vital organ involvement sets in. The vital organs usually involved are the heart, brain and kidneys.

Redefinition of hypertension is likely to continue as clinicians, researchers and physicians gain additional insights into the early indicators of CVD. "Many practitioners have become fixated on BP numbers to guide their diagnosis of hypertension, but [symptoms] are often present before BP elevation is observed," explains Dr. Giles.

The ASH has recently organized a Hypetension Writing Group (HWG) to try to dissociate the definition of hypertension with specific numbers of BP. The definition is being expanded by integrating the overall clinical cardiovascular manifestations. This assessment looks at the individual patient as a whole, correlating all the clinical findings with the BP and whatever cardiovascular risk factors may be present.

This redefinition of hypertension and the other risk factors is expected to improve clinical care in patients with these risk factors.

"We need to shift our focus to lowering BP and protecting the heart, vasculature [blood vessels] and target [vital] organs at the same time," stresses Dr. Giles.

Many experts attending the ASH meeting agree that it's a necessary change in focus that has important clinical implications for patient management, research, drug development, public health efforts and patient education.

### Paradigm shift

The HWG position paper recommends a paradigm shift which will change the current approach to hypertension. It does not consider rational any hypertension treatment based on BP measurements alone, without considering the overall cardiovascular risk.

"Such a strategy would involve treating a significant number of individuals who are not at significant risk of cardiovascular events [strokes, heart attacks, etc.]," Dr. Giles says.

Physicians treating hypertensive patients are now enjoined to incorporate the presence of risk factors, early disease markers and target organ damage in order to identify those at risk for CVD much earlier.

### Determining cause

"It also helps us avoid labeling individuals who are at low risk for CVD as hypertensive," says Dr. Giles.

Elevated BP is important, but it should be every physician's goal to determine why it became elevated in the first place, adds Dr. Giles.

This new challenge to the medical and research community will no doubt trigger a lot of debates and discussions, but the logic behind the new recommendations in the HWG position paper appears to be clinically rational and should be able to convince most physicians on how thorough management of cardiovascular problems like hypertension, diabetes and cholesterol problems should be approached.

## Nat'l math tilt winners

**EUREKA!**

*Queena N. Lee-Chua*

LAST APRIL THE FINAL ROUND of the annual Metrobank Foundation-Mathematics Teachers Association of the Philippines-Department of Education Math Challenge was held at the Metrobank Plaza. Seventeen regions of the country and 169 of the 187 DepEd divisions (for a whopping 90.37 percent) participated this year.

More than 300,000 elementary and high school students from more than 18,000 public and private schools took part in the challenge, from eliminations, to division, to regional, and for grade six and fourth year high school, to the national finals.

Math proficiency is sorely needed in today's globalized and information-saturated world. I commend the three organizations, a veritable partnership among academe, government and business, for making the competition possible again this year.

The contest, which started in 1998, is the biggest of its kind in the country. This year, the bar was raised higher as regional winners needed to compete with other contestants within the same geographical area: Metro Manila, Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao. Only the top two with a score of at least 40 points out of the perfect 60 would advance to the national finals.

Cash allowances were given to the coaches of contestants in regional and national rounds, even if their wards did not win. Close to half a million pesos in cash prizes, plus trophies and medals, were given away to the winners.

### Winners

I had the privilege of serving as chair of the board of judges in the national finals, and we were impressed with the abilities of the contestants.

Who were the best of the best? The grade six national individual winners were Andrew James Tan Lee (St. Jude Catholic School), Immanuel Encarnacion (Colegio San Agustin Biñan) and Zheng Rong Wu (Zamboanga Chong Hua High School). The top three teams were Chiang Kai Shek College (Aldric Cristoval Reyes and Kennard Ong Sychingping), Grace Christian High School (Gisel Ong and Zisin Zhang) and Colegio San Agustin Biñan (Encarnacion and Neil Patrick Angeles).

Fourth year winners were Emerson Escolar (Grace Christian), Abegail Ceralde (Zamboanga Chong Hua) and Carlo Minon (Xavier University High School).

The top teams were Escolar and Galvin Lester Dy, Jesreal Arcillas and Diosdado Sorsano Jr. (Philippine Science High School of Western Visayas, coached by my former student Mr. Jose Ariel Serrato), and Minon and Michael Daniel Lucagbo.

I would like to congratulate my son, Scott Lee Chua of Xavier School, for placing second in the individual regional finals for grade one, and with his teammates Ethan Chua and Tristan Tiu, coached by Luisa Valdez, for getting the silver in the team competition. Well done!

### Grant proposals

Speaking of incentives, the Philippine Tropical Forest Conservation Foundation (PTFCF) is calling on nongovernment organizations to submit competitive proposals toward grants for projects to conserve, maintain or restore tropical forests in the country.

This year, total grants for distribution can run up to P40 million.

For details, visit the website at www.gubat.org. You can also contact Xenia C. dela Cruz at finance@gubat.org or call at 524-7923. Deadline is June 6, 2006.

## Bone density screening important for women

By Charles E. Buban

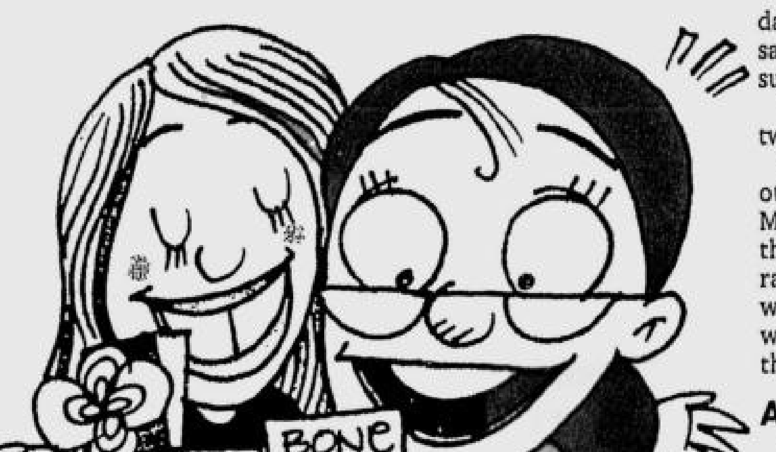
IF YOU FORGOT TO TREAT your mom last Mother's Day, you may want to consider taking her to the hospital and having her screened for bone density.

Doctors said the test, which takes only a few minutes to complete, could be the best gift children can give to their mothers as it can help prevent osteoporosis.

### No signs

Osteoporosis causes bones to weaken and deteriorate and does so without any obvious signs, said Dr. Florante Gonzaga, president of Osteoporosis Society of the Philippines Foundation Inc. (OSPFI).

In many cases, it goes undetected until a woman suffers a fracture, especially in the hip, spine and wrist and this could lead to long hospital stays, more severe disability or even death, he said.



"A [bone density] test can detect osteoporosis before a fracture so that steps may be taken to control further loss of bone density," Gonzaga said.

Last week, the foundation tied up with pharmaceutical giant Sanofi-Aventis in organizing a week long Mother's Day Osteoporosis Screening operation (called Modos Operandi) wherein select hospitals offered free or subsidized bone density tests to mothers aged 40 and above.

The mothers were screened using the central Dual X-ray Absorptionmetry (Dexa), the "gold standard" for detecting osteoporosis, said Dr. Julie Li-Yu, OSPFI treasurer.

The test normally costs between P2,500 and P3,500.

The peripheral Dexa was another test offered during the Modos Operandi. Although this type of test is not as accurate as the central Dexa, it would help a doctor determine whether a patient needs further testing.

### Asian women

"Testing one's bone density is crucial. While all women are at risk for getting osteoporosis, Asian women have a higher risk because of their lower bone mass and density and smaller body," said Dr. Leilani Mercado-Asis, OSPFI vice president.

The OSPFI estimates that one out of every five postmenopausal Filipino women will be positive for osteoporosis while one out of every three will develop fractures.

**ASK THE DENTIST**
Paul R. De Castro, DMD

## Local anesthesia

**IF I HAVE GENERAL ANESTHEsia when I have my wisdom tooth removed, can I avoid having local anesthesia? That way I avoid having too many injections.—Alfred M.**

Local anesthesia is still recommended for extractions even if the patient is under general anesthesia because the vasoconstrictor in the local anesthesia decreases the amount of bleeding after surgery. Also the use of local anesthesia decreases the amount of general anesthesia required for the surgery.

Look at the bright side: you'll have the local anesthesia but you won't experience it because you'll be under the general anesthesia.

*E-mail your questions to dentalqs@yahoo.com.*

# MESSAGE

## Malacañan Palace
## Manila

Warmest greetings to the officers and members of the **Philippine Heart Association Inc.** as you hold your *37th Annual Convention.*

I am pleased to note the valuable contribution of the PHA in the efficient delivery of quality cardiovascular care in our country. Indeed, I expect this annual convention and scientific meeting to be another great opportunity for you to take bolder and more decisive actions to elevate your profession to world standards.

Public health has always been a priority of my administration. Thus, our health agenda is designed to meet the growing demand for health services for our people. I am glad to have you as a partner of government in his endeavor. I encourage you not only to carry on with your mission, but also work doubly hard in attaining your objectives.

Through this convention, I hope you will renew your commitment to medical excellence and service in the field of cardiovascular medicine. Now, more than ever, you play a crucial role in establishing a healthier and more progressive Philippine society.

I wish you all a productive convention. *Mabuhay kayong lahat!*

GMArroyo
GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO
President, Republic of the Philippines

## Department of Health

Warm greetings and congratulations to the officers and members of the Philippine Heart Association Inc. (PHA) on the holding of their 37th Annual Convention and Scientific Meeting entitled "State of the Art to State of the Heart".

We are a witness to various advancements and major achievements in the improvement of our country's health situation during the past years. This was due to persistent pursuit of excellence and selfless service of various organizations to the community.

It is inspiring to know that the Department of Health is not alone in its quest of improving our country's state of health. I commend PHA for having remained a highly privilege group of medical professionals ever responsive to provide health assistance to those in need.

Let us continue to nurture a sense of shared responsibility and move our country towards better health, sustainable development and lasting peace.

Congratulations and *Mabuhay kayong lahat!*

FRANCISCO T. DUQUE, III, MD
Secretary

## Philippine Heart Association, Inc

Welcome to our Philippine Heart Association 37th Annual Convention with theme ***"State of the Art to State of the Heart"*** which underscores the benefits of the latest global scientific research and developments in cardiovascular medicine.

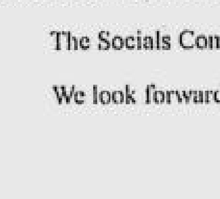
Advanced medical knowledge and its subsequent clinical application will redound to better care and treatment of our Filipino brothers, even in the remotest barrios, thereby decreasing the morbidity and mortality rate of cardiovascular disease in our country, in keeping with PHA Vision 2012, and PHA Mission 2012: to be a leading organization of cardiovascular specialties in the Asia-Pacific Region.

This year's PHA celebration also highlights the 50th Founding Year of the Asian Pacific Congress of Cardiology, organized by the first Asian Pacific Society of Cardiology president Dr. Antonio Samia. The PHA is honored and privileged to commemorate the society's Golden Year in Manila, its birthplace.

The Socials Committee promises to spring surprises.

We look forward to meeting you in the Convention!

MARIANO B. LOPEZ, MD
President



The PHA 37th Annual Convention promises to be a memorable event for the local and foreign delegates because it coincides with the 50th Founding Anniversary of the Asian Pacific Society of Cardiology.

Highlights of the events include the Mariano Alimurung Lecture, which will be delivered by our past President Dr. Anastacio Aquino. Dr. Bijoy Khanderia is this year's Rodolfo Soto Professorial Lecturer. A joint PHA/APSC Symposium delving into cardiovascular diagnostic modalities will bring the latest trends in CT-Angiography, CT-MRI and nuclear imaging to the fore.

EFREN R. VICALDO, MD
Secretary & Over-all chair
PHA 37th Annual Convention

There is no escaping the fact that the science and art of cardiovascular medicine are invariably caught in the fast lane of change, be it within the diagnostic and/or therapeutic realms. As cardiovascular specialists, we necessarily need to keep pace, stay on the fast lane and stay attuned to another dimension, that of the state-of-the-art of our specialty in order to translate it to a better state of our patients' hearts. With this in mind, this year's Scientific Committee chose the theme "State of the Art to State of the Heart"

We will be privileged to interact not only with our homegrown topnotch speakers, but, likewise, with several renowned foreign guest lecturers,

MA. BELEN O. CARISMA, MD
Treasurer & Chair, Scientific Committee
PHA 37th Annual Convention

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# PHILIPPINE HEART ASSOCIATION INC.
# PHILIPPINE COLLEGE OF CARDIOLOGY

# 37th ANNUAL CONVENTION

## "State of the Art to State of the Heart"

EDSA SHANGRI-LA HOTEL, MANDALUYONG CITY, MAY 24-27, 2006

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## PROGRAM AT-A-GLANCE

| TIME | Wednesday May 24 | Thursday May 25 | Friday May 26 | Saturday May 27 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 7:30<br>8:00 - 9:00 | REGISTRATION<br>*Lower Ground Floor*<br>PRE-CONVENTION:<br>Coronary Artery Disease in Diabetic Patients<br>*Oliver Schnell, MD and Prof. Marc Pfeffer* | BREAKFAST SYMPOSIA<br>Uncomplexing Complex ECGs<br>Panelists:<br>*Dr Nelson S. Abelardo*<br>*Dr John C. Añonuevo*<br>*Dr Anthony B. King*<br>*Dr Nanette R. Rey*<br>(Isla 3)<br>PFIZER (Isla 2)<br>BOIE-TAKEDA (Isla 1) | MEET THE EXPERTS<br>Emerging Concepts and Strategies in the Management of Chronic Heart Failure<br>Panelists:<br>*Dr Eduardo S. Caguioa*<br>*Dr Timothy C. Dy*<br>*Dr Cesar C. Estabillo III*<br>[illegible]<br>*Dr Angeles A. Tan*<br>[illegible]<br>(Isla 3)<br>Hypertensive Drugs: Old and New<br>Panelists<br>*Dr Nelson S. Abelardo*<br>*Dr Vincent V. Valencia*<br>(Isla 1) | PLENARY LECTURE 2<br>OFF Pump CABG<br>*Dr. Watanabe Go*<br>(Isla 2) |
| 9:00 - 9:45 | | DR. HOMOBONO B. CALLEJA PROFESSORIAL LECTURE<br>Cardiovascular Ultrasound: David vs Goliath<br>*Dr Bijoy Khanderia*<br>(Isla 2) | PLENARY LECTURE 1<br>Cardiovascular Disease among Filipino Women in California: The Effect of Diabetes, Adiponectin and Visceral Adiposity<br>*Ma. Rosario Araneta, PhD*<br>(Isla2) | DR. RODOLFO C. SOTO PROFESSORIAL LECTURE<br>Current Status of Anti-Platelet Regimen<br>*Dr Noe A. Babilonia*<br>(Isla 2) |
| 9:45 - 10:00 | | Visit Exhibits | Visit Exhibits | Visit Exhibits |
| 10:00 - 12:00<br>10:00 - 10:30<br>10:30 - 11:00<br>11:00 - 11:30<br>11:30 - 12:00 | | 10:00 - 10:20 am<br>Commemorative Ceremony for the APSC 50th Anniversary<br>PHA/APSC Joint Symposium: Cardiac Imaging<br>(Isla 1 & 2)<br>10:20 - 10:40 am<br>Coronary Computed Tomography Angiography - a Non-Invasive Imaging Technique for the Diagnosis of Early Atherosclerosis of Coronary Arteries<br>[illegible]<br>10:40 - 11:10 am<br>CT Coronary Angiography: The Singapore Experience<br>*Dr. Michael Lim (Singapore)*<br>11:10 - 11:35 am<br>First-Pass Myocardial Perfusion MRI in Coronary Artery Disease<br>[illegible]<br>11:35 - 12:00 nn<br>Nuclear Cardiology: Established and Evolving Role in Cardiac Imaging<br>[illegible]<br>Poster Session - A | PHA CARDIO CHALLENGE | SIMULTANEOUS Symposia II<br>(Isla 3)<br>Intraoperative Monitoring: the Gold Standard TEE vs Swan Ganz<br>[illegible]<br>The Use of Nesiritide in Acute Decompensated Heart Failure<br>[illegible]<br>Risk Factors for CV Disease: A Southeast Asian Perspective on the Interheart Study<br>[illegible]<br>The 2004-2005 Clinical Practice Guidelines for the Management of Dyslipidemia in the Philippines<br>*Dr. Eugene B. Reyes*<br>(Isla 1)<br>3D-4D Echocardiography<br>[illegible]<br>Management of Pulmonary Arterial HPN: Challenges across the Clinical Spectrum<br>[illegible]<br>Atrial Fibrillation: Therapeutic Innovations<br>[illegible]<br>Community-Based Cardiac Rehabilitation: Still Relevant<br>[illegible]<br>Poster Session - C |
| 12:00 - 2:00 | Satellite Symposia<br>*PFIZER (Isla 3)*<br>*MSD (Isla 1)* | Satellite Symposia<br>*Therapharma (Isla 3)*<br>*Sanofi-Aventis (Isla 2)*<br>*PFIZER (Isla 1)*<br>*Solvay (Garden)*<br>*RF-RHD Annual Meeting* [illegible] | Satellite Symposia<br>[illegible] *(Isla 3)*<br>*Sanofi-Aventis (Isla 2)*<br>*PFIZER (Isla 1)* | Satellite Symposia<br>*MERCK Inc (Isla 3)*<br>*Corbridge (Isla 1)* |
| 2:00 - 3:00<br>2:00 - 2:30<br>2:30 - 3:00 | REGISTRATION<br>CONVOCATION AND OPENING CEREMONIES<br>Dr. Mariano M. Alimurung Lecture<br>(Isla 2)<br>*Dr Anastacio R. Aquino* | Symposia 1<br>(Isla 3)<br>MAP vs PP in Acute CVA<br>*Panel Discussion*<br>Panelists [illegible]<br>Is CABG still better than drug eluting stents in Multivessel CAD?<br>DEBATE [illegible]<br>(Isla 2)<br>PULSO NG PUSO DEBATE<br>(Isla 1)<br>Small Lesions: To Close or Not to Close<br>Panelists [illegible]<br>Options in the Cyanotic Newborn: Shunt or Stent<br>Panelists [illegible]<br>When is the Rheumatic Valve Irreparable?<br>[illegible]<br>Panel Discussion: Medical Management of RF-RHD in the Pediatric and Adult Population, Is There a Difference?<br>[illegible] | PHA Research Hour<br>Poster Session-B<br>Case Report & Meta Analysis Presentation (Isla 3)<br>Dr. Francisco F. Tangco Young Investigator's Award (Isla 1)<br>PHA-SERVIER AWARD For Most Outstanding Research in Cardiology (Isla 2) | Symposia III<br>(Isla 3)<br>Carotid Endarterectomy vs Carotid Stenting: Which is the Better Option<br>[illegible]<br>Deep Venous Thrombosis: Therapeutic Options<br>[illegible]<br>(Isla 4)<br>Autologous Blood Bone Marrow Cell Precursors Improve Symptoms of Severe Heart Disease<br>[illegible]<br>(Isla [illegible])<br>Information Technology Session |
| 3:00 - 3:30 | | | Visit Exhibits | Visit Exhibits |
| 3:30 - 4:00<br>4:00 - 4:30 | | | Annual Business Meeting<br>(Isla 2) | (Isla 2)<br>Social Work and the Specialist<br>*Dr. Esperanza I. Cabral*<br>Highlights of Scientific Sessions<br>*Dr. Ma. Belen O. Carisma* |
| 5:00 - 7:00 | | Satellite Symposia<br>PSPC Annual Meeting<br>THERAPHARMA | Satellite Symposia<br>*Natrapharm (Isla 3)*<br>*Schering Plough (Isla 2)*<br>*Abbott Nutrition (Isla 1)* | PHA Thanksgiving Mass<br>CLOSING CEREMONIES CHAPTERS' NIGHT<br>(Isla 1 & 2) |
| 7:00 | Fellowship Night<br>*Isla Ballroom* | | President's Night | |

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Aries Espinosa, Editor

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# Soul food at Dusit Hotel this May

FOOD IS A CELEBRATION OF LIFE'S ABUNdance. It satisfies our need for nourishment to sustain our well-being. Food, without doubt, affects our mood in one way or another, but most importantly brings pleasure to our soul.

Take an epicurean adventure to the best in Asian cuisine. Go forth... journey with Dusit Hotel Nikko to dining Nirvana!

The Café offers you a taste of the Mediterranean for the month of May and June. Enjoy a repertoire of dishes meticulously prepared by our seasoned chefs showcasing the best in Mediterranean cuisine. Available for lunch and dinner and is pegged at P850++ per person.

For a refreshing feel of the Mediterranean, cool down and quench your thirst with the featured "Lassie" drinks priced at P150++ per glass.

Benjarong Royal Thai restaurant's well loved chef Tun gives you more reasons to spice up your life and experience Thai cuisine created for royalty. Discover an emulsion of flavors as you sample chef Tun's offerings for the month of May and June.

Enjoy a symphony of authentic Japanese flavors as only Benkay can deliver. This May, enjoy a variety of Japanese cuisine specially created by chef Tomiyama.

Fiesta San Miguel gives you many reasons to crave for Filipino cuisine as it offers, on the menu, a unique gastronomic feast.

True to Fiesta San Miguel's flare for Filipino food with a twist, the restaurant offers a la carte items for May and June featuring, the tender, lamb meat. Sample the "Pinoy style" 'Inihaw na Australian Lamb' with coconut barbecue sauce and served with pineapple chutney and mashed sweet potatoes and the 'Lamb with Adobo Sauce' with malungay pesto, among other lamb dish preparations.

Let Fiesta San Miguel warms your appetite with its hearty soup dishes using different types of noodles matched with meat, seafood and vegetables. Highly recommended is the Japanese style and sour soup varieties on the menu. Available from May to June.

For the drink of the month, experience the smooth blend and calming effect of 'Harmony'- the featured drink for the month of May. 'Harmony' is a rich and refreshing blend of melon liqueur, calamansi juice, simple syrup, orange juice, fresh cantaloupe and a hint of vodka. An order of 'Harmony' comes with a cuddly stuffed toy and is priced at only P400++.

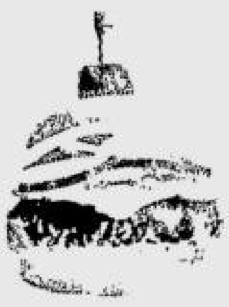
The perfect indulgence after a scrumptious meal is a slice or two of the featured cake for the month of May - the 'Pistachio Strawberry Medley'. Sample the tempting interplay of fresh strawberries and pistachio nuts for only P820 nett for a whole cake and P95 nett for a slice. Available at the Deli Shop.

For inquiries, call 867-3333.

# Barbecue Dinner Buffet at The Bellevue

BARBECUES AND BURGERS GALORE greet visitors of The Bellevue Hotel's Poolside every Friday and Saturday for the Barbecue Dinner Buffet. The hotel's own poolside area at the third floor has al fresco dining and an inviting infinity pool. Several barbecue options and burger choices are available for the food lovers visiting the area. Plus, those checking in have an additional 20 percent discount on this great buffet deal. Available if weather permits. It's the best barbecues, burgers and blissful hotel living only at The Bellevue.

A new way to refresh and detoxify comes to The Bellevue Spa. Moxa Ventosa is an ancient healing treatment aimed at drawing out toxins from the body through warm glasses, infusing the body with renewed strength and cleansing the spirit from within. Enjoy it from the calm and inviting interiors of The Bellevue Spa and experience paradise in the bustling city. For inquiries, call 771-8181.



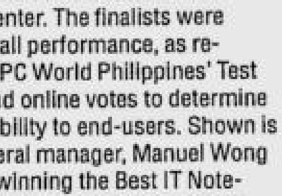
# People, Events & Products

## ACER WINS AT THE 3RD PC WORLD ANNUAL AWARDS

Acer Philippines Inc, one of the world's leading brand of laptops, desktop computers and other digital devices, recently bagged the Best IT Notebook (Mainstream) for Acer Aspire 1692WLMI at the 3rd PC World Annual Awards and Exhibit held at Glorietta Activity Center. The finalists were judged based on overall performance, as reviewed and tested by PC World Philippines' Test Lab, as well as text and online votes to determine the product's acceptability to end-users. Shown is Acer Philippines General manager, Manuel Wong at the Acer bootafter winning the Best IT Notebook (Mainstream) for Acer Aspire 1692WLMI.

## ProductFILES

### Ansell quality gloves at World Food Expo 2006



PHILUSA CORporation which exclusively distributes Ansell Quality Gloves, the multi-functional gloves use in food preparation, gardening, laundry with guaranteed hand protection (as shown) will be one of the many products featured at the World Food Expo (Wofex) 2006 scheduled Aug. 2 to 5 at the World Trade Center. Free seminars, workshops, and culinary competitions are highlights of the event. For an updated schedule, log on to www.wofex.com or e-mail infor@PEPGroup.com or call organizer, Premier Events Plus Group Inc, at 929-7993 or 435-4790, 426-9603, 928-0931 or 426-9603.

## BMW summer promo

BMW IS OFFERING A SPECIAL DEAL ON AIRCONditioning and cooling services and parts. From April 1 to June 30, all authorized BMW Dealers are extending a special 20 percent discount on airconditioning as well as cooling system maintenance and repair parts. Additionally, BMW owners who avail of this special offer will be entitled to join a raffle for the chance to win 1 of 4 BMW Sauber F1 Team gift vouchers worth P25,000 each. Beat the summer heat with this special BMW Aftersales offer. The cooling systems promotion is available at all authorized BMW dealers, namely Autohaus BMW (Quezon City-Libis), Prestige Cars BMW (Makati), Autozentrum BMW (Alabang), Klassik BMW (Quezon City- Araneta-Quezon Avenue), Premier BMW (Pampanga), and Performance BMW (Cebu).

## The X-Men at Burger King

BURGER KING BRINGS 6 EXCLUSIVE TOYS AT very affordable prices. Get any (1) toy for any purchase of the following meals: BK Ham & Cheese plus drink for only P65, BK Spaghetti and drink for only P75, 1-pc. BK Crispy Tender Fried Chicken and drink for P90 and Whopper Jr. with drink for P90. Prepare for action with these 6 limited edition toys from Burger King! There's Wind Whipper Storm, Flip and Stick Beast, X-Ray Reveal Wolverine, Magnet Mystery Magneto, Cerebral Seek Professor and Jean Grey. If you want to take home the action, take home these toys especially created by Burger King under license from Marvel and 20th Century Fox. Don't let anything hold you back. Hurry, collect all 6!

## Fundraising concert

A FUNDRAISING CONCERT - DANCE FOR THE construction of the Holy Trinity Parish Church in East Village, Cainta, Rizal will feature the Rockin' Revival at the Valle Verde Country Club on May 20, starting at 7 p.m. Get a load of all night nostalgic hits from the 50s, 60s and 70s as you rock n' roll with the Rockin' Revival to your favorite dance steps of yesteryears. Tickets available at the Holy Trinity Parish, at Powerplay Music and Sports at Sta. Lucia East Grand Mall and Riverbanks Mall or call 645-7281 and 681-7311. Also available on Saturday at the gate, Valle Verde Country Club, Pasig.

## GfK holds 1st confab in Phils

GROWTH FROM KNOWLEDGE (GFK) HAS FINALLY decided to plant its roots in the Philippine market as GfK Philippines, one of the youngest member of the GfK Asia Group, and to introduce its settling, GfK Philippines will hold its first annual conference titled, "Forging Connections: A Conference on Consumer Technology Trends & Lifestyle," at the Mandarin Hotel on May 26. As GfK boasts of its global expertise, it also customizes its reports across regions of countries, giving its clients the local knowledge they need to further boost up their marketing strategies. To give the market a taste of what GfK does, the conference will touch topics on the dynamics and flow of consumer technology in Asia, changing values and lifestyle of Asian consumers, the economic indicators and how they affect the consumer durables market and finally drilling down to the key product features they track from mobile phones, audio visual, to home appliances as well as on consumers' preference on payments.

Bits & Clips

## Lucbanin Food Festival

ON MAY 19 TO 28, CENTURY PARK AND THE LOcal Government of Lucban, Quezon brings you The Lucbanin Food Festival in Manila. For only P850++ for adults and P500++ for kids, try out the lunch or dinner buffet at Café in the Park's "Tayo na sa Handaan". Check out the trade fair of various native crafts that are available for purchase until May 28. "Banahaw Blues", the final dance of the Lucbanin experience will cap off the celebration on May 27, 7 p.m. at the Atrium Lounge. Dance entrance fee is P500 per person. For inquiries and reservations, call (632) 528-8888 or e-mail information@centurypark.com.ph.

## Healthworks 2006

SOCIAL HEALTH CARE FOUNDATION, WHICH NOT only aims to raise public awareness on multiple sclerosis, cancer and reproductive health issues and at the same time to raise funds that will subsidize medicine and support entrepreneurial projects, introduces "Healthworks 2006: Be Healthy! Be Pampered! Be Well! Healthworks 2006, the ultimate health and wellness exhibit featuring alternative health products, fitness, recreation, beauty and everything about health and wellness, will be held from May 20 to 21, at the SM Megatrade Hall 1, 5th Floor SM Megamall Bldg B. The two day activity aims to heighten the awareness and information to the public the importance and benefits of having a good well being both physically and emotionally. For booth reservations and inquiries, call 713-8078 or 714-5432 or e-mail to fusionadteam@yahoo.com.

## Agusan Adventure Feat

ISLAND CARAVAN PRESENTS THE AGUSAN ADventure Feat, a Wild Green Summer Environmental Summer Camp, on May 25 to 28. It's a great opportunity to learn about the environment and conservation as you engage in educational talks and activities. Camp outdoors and enjoy tropical treks, as well as spelunking, rope lessons, climbing, rappelling, and canoeing with expert guides. Interested parties can call Island Caravan at 896-1910, 896-7569, and 896-1893 or e-mail at inquiry@islandcaravan.com.

## *A Message of Gratitude*

**JOCELYN CAMPOS HESS**
*Chairman of the Board*

**CLINTON CAMPOS HESS**
*Vice Chairman of the Board*

**CARLOS C. EJERCITO**
*President & CEO*

*in behalf of the*

*Stockholders, Board of Directors, Management and Staff*

*of*

**UNITED LABORATORIES, INC.**
**UNILAB GROUP OF COMPANIES**

*convey our sincerest gratitude to everyone*
*who expressed their sympathy*
*in our moment of sorrow*
*with the passing away of*

*our beloved*

*Founder and Chairman Emeritus*

# *Jose Y. Campos*

---

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*departed*
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❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

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# Sinforoso "Baby" P. Ang

July 14, 1941-May 19, 2006

His wife, **Celi**; children **Sonny, Butch, Bobby** and **Pia, Bing** and **Vincent**; his grandchildren **Yza** and **Isabella**; brothers and sisters; nieces and nephews; and relatives request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Ilagan Funeral Homes, Burgos Street, Cabanatuan City.

Funeral Mass will be held on May 21, 2006 at 3:00 PM at the Santuario de Sto. Niño Chapel, Kapitan Pepe Subdivision, Cabanatuan City. Cremation will follow at 8:00 PM at the Loyola Memorial Chapel in Guadalupe.

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# ELISEO R. CABANGON

(June 14, 1925 – May 15, 2006)

**of Panganiban, Catanduanes**

*Peacefully joined his Creator*
*on May 15, 2006 at the age of 80.*

His sister **Irmina Valledor** & brother **Jose**, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at St. Louise Chapel, Holy Trinity, Sucat, Parañaque City.

The funeral Mass will be held at 8:30 am on Sunday, May 21 2006. Interment will follow at 11:00 am, Eternal Gardens, Novaliches, Quezon City.

---

*Our Dearly Beloved*

# CECILIO "Ogie" DOMINGO OBISPO

*Now peacefully rests in the infinite*
*Grace and Goodness of the Lord at the age of 72.*

His wife **Rizalina**, children **Ma. Carmela & Jesus Antonio, Juan Carlos**, grandchildren **Jeremy Michael, Jessica Marie** and **Jamie Margaret**, Relatives and Friends request the Pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Loyola Memorial Chapel O, Guadalupe, Makati City and will be moved to Loyola Memorial Park Marikina, May 20, 2006 at 11:00 am.

Funeral Mass at Loyola Memorial Chapel O, Guadalupe, Makati City at 9:00am, May 20, 2006.

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**"For God so loved the world, that He gave us His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have Everlasting life."**

—John 3:16

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# FILOMENA T. LADIA

(Legionary, Tessera Legion ni Maria)
August 10, 1926 - May 18, 2006

*Peacefully joined her Creator at the age of 80.*

Her beloved sister **Marcelina**; brother **Marcelo**; sisters-in-law **Lualhati Pagsanjan, Cristina Aban, Remy Piring**; nephews and nieces; and grandchildren request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the family's residence in Zulueta St., Sto. Rosario, Malolos, Bulacan.

Interment will be on May 21, 2006 after the 2:00 p.m. Mass.

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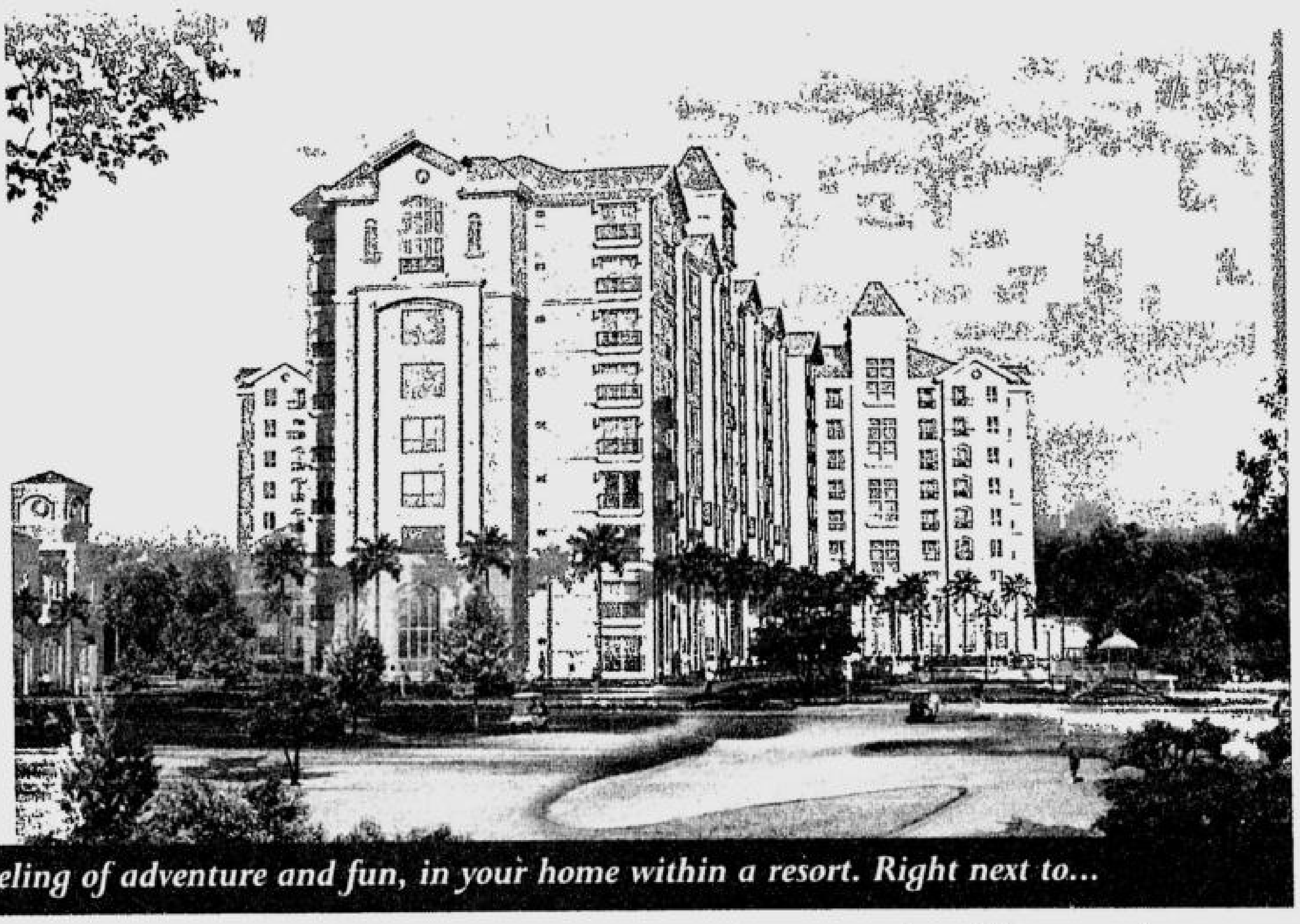
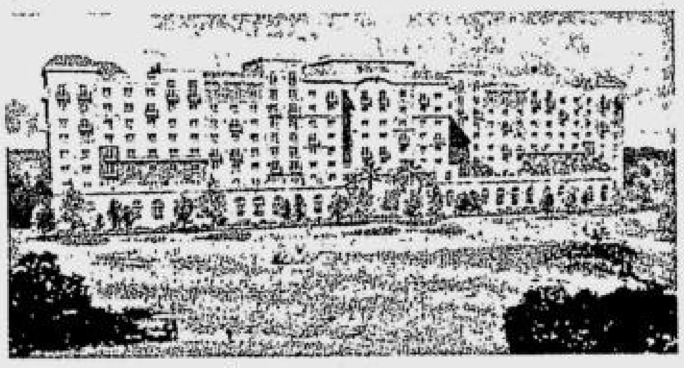
*The Metro's First and Only Luxury Resort Residences*
Gozar Street, Newport City, Pasay City



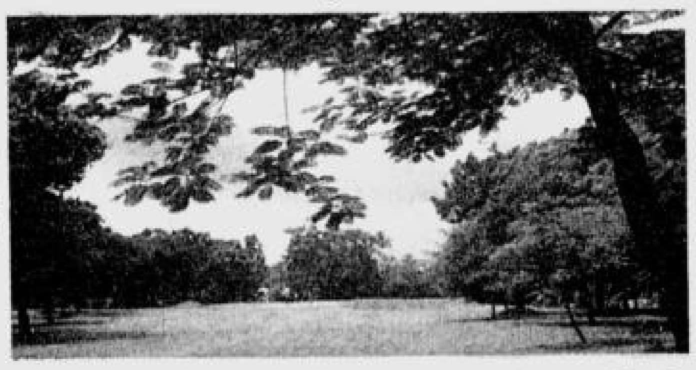
***Live everyday a fresh new way, with a feeling of adventure and fun, in your home within a resort. Right next to...***

### *the **Marriott Hotel...***



Where you can experience five-star luxury any time of day. Here, 350 elegantly appointed rooms are matched by business centers and luxurious leisure amenities.

### *the **Villamor Golf Course...***



A championship-level playground for golf aficionados. Tee off in the 60-hectare, 18-hole, par-72 green. Non-golfers can enjoy front-row views of the sprawling landscape.

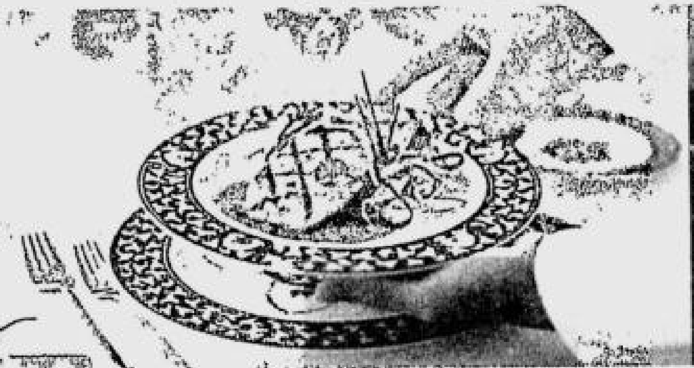
### *a luxurious indoor **Spa...***

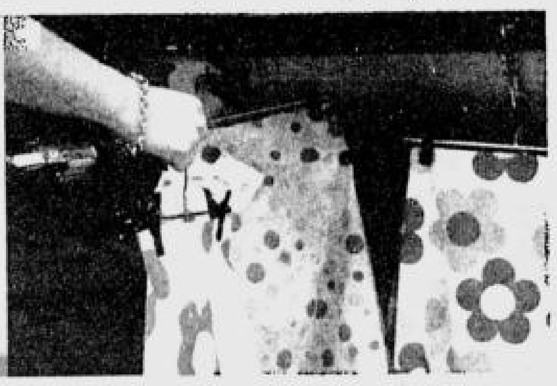
Where you can unwind amid top-notch therapeutic facilities, heat and exercise pools and aromatherapy and massage rooms.

### *a modern **Fitness Center...***

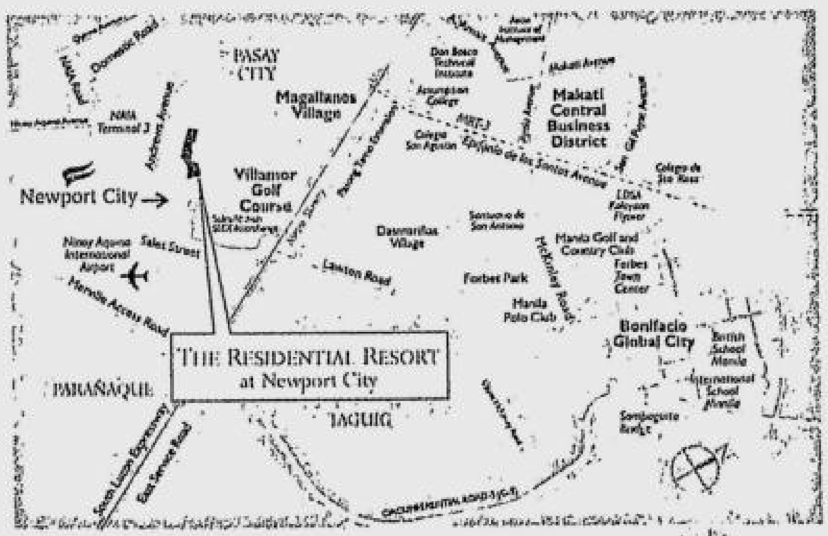
The whole family will enjoy hours of healthy recreation with first-rate amenities including a gym, adult and children's swimming pools, tennis and badminton courts and landscaped play areas.

### *and a themed **Dining, Shopping and Entertainment Complex.***





Explore a streetscape of international restaurants, stylish boutiques and alfresco cafés with live performances—all within walking distance from home.


PASAY CITY
Magallanes Village
Don Bosco Technical Institute
Makati Avenue
Makati Central Business District
Assumption College
MRT-3
Colegio San Agustin
Epifanio de los Santos Avenue
Colegio de Sta. Rosa
Domestic Road
NAIA Terminal 3
Newport City →
Villamor Golf Course
Ninoy Aquino International Airport
Sales Street
Dasmariñas Village
Lawton Road
Forbes Park
Manila Golf and Country Club
Forbes Town Center
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McKinley Road
Bonifacio Global City
British School Manila
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TAGUIG
South Luzon Expressway
East Service Road
Circumferential Road 5 (C-5)

At Sarasota, discover the privileges of living close to nature in a Mediterranean-style resort setting inspired by Lake Las Vegas. Choose from an executive studio, 1-bedroom or 2-bedroom home, with wide windows and balconies.

The elegant, earth-toned residential buildings are no more than 9 stories high, so air can flow freely. Each building boasts its own lobby and ample basement parking. Aside from a guarded entrance gate, a tree-lined perimeter fence encloses the entire community. The interior roads are wide and made safe for children.

And the homes are clustered around the play amenities, making it easy for neighbors to get together at the lap pool, putting green, fitness station or tennis court. Or at the sitting area and the aviary with benches. Children, too, will enjoy hours of fun in their own pool and play areas.

**Join us on May 21, Sunday,
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Grand Showroom.**

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for as low as
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a month.**

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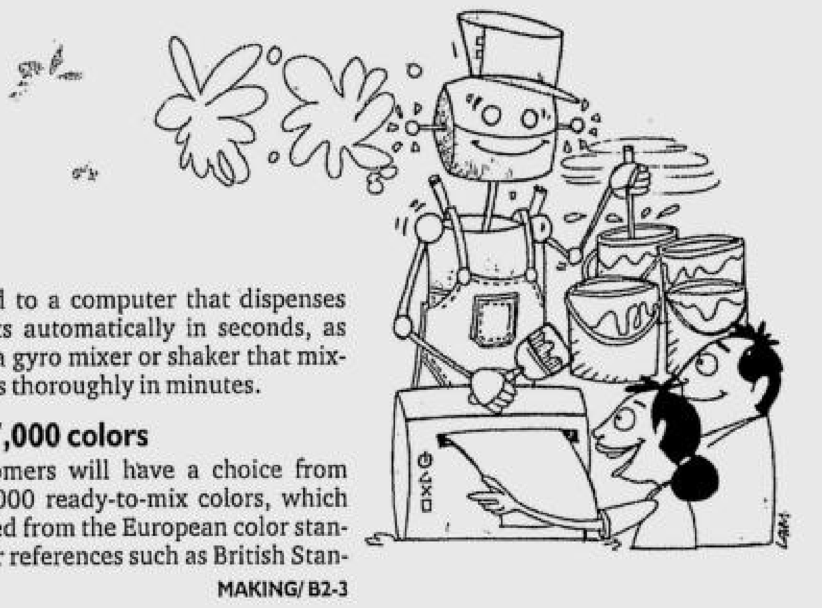
For Announcement Purposes Only

# Making paint mixing accurate and easy



By Charles E. Buban

DO YOU HAVE THE right paint color in mind but the mixer just can't get it right? Can't decide on what particular color hue and shade to put on your wall?

Davies will try to solve these and other problems as one of the country's leading paint companies introduces the Davis Color Factory, a one-stop station that offers state-of-the-art fully computerized color mixing system for paints.

Davies said that before, customers had to wait for at least two to three weeks to have their colors mixed at the factory and is required to have a minimum quantity of 150 liters to 190 liters per color.

This time Davies announced that their customers can now visit any of these color factory stations and have their paint color prepared in minutes (even if one requires only a liter of the paint).

These color factory stations—located in Metro Manila, Cebu, Davao and other key cities in Luzon as well as in most home depots and building centers—feature fully automated tinting machines attached to a computer that dispenses colorants automatically in seconds, as well as a gyro mixer or shaker that mixes paints thoroughly in minutes.

## Over 7,000 colors

Customers will have a choice from over 7,000 ready-to-mix colors, which are based from the European color standards or references such as British Stan-

MAKING/ B2-3

## CONSTRUCTSCOPE

### Calamba City ready for Madison South

BARANGAY BATINO IN CALAMBA, LAGUNA RECENTLY WELCOMED THE upcoming world-class subdivision, Madison South, which is being developed by Excelsis Land Inc. in partnership with Banco De Oro (BDO).

The celebration, which began with a colorful Madison South motorcade, started from the 14.5-hectare property and worked its way through the city proper. Afterward, guests at the much-awaited soft opening, which was hosted by engineer Dennis Morada, Excelsis Land's project officer, were welcomed by Danilo Antonio, chair of Excelsis Land. Antonio briefly introduced Madison South as a project that provides a home of only the highest quality.

The event was graced by Calamba City Mayor Joaquin Chipeco, who expressed his high regard for Madison South as a project that will boost the progress of the district.

Antonio, joined by Mayor Chipeco, barangay captain Dimapilis, BDO vice president Joseph Ramil Lombos and Excelsis Land EVP and COO Ma. Charina Garcia, inaugurated Madison South in groundbreaking ceremonies.

The project's scale models, comprised of the Madison South subdivision and the three distinct housing styles, each named after the most elegant and charming first ladies in American history: Hillary, Nancy and Jacquelyn, were unveiled by the VIP guests after the groundbreaking.

Madison South offers extremely affordable prices and payment plans. It will boast of houses with shingled rooflines, paneled walls in pastel palettes, picket fences and amiable white-outlined doors and windows.

### A lot better than metro living

THIS MORNING ROBINSONS HOMES INC. WILL HOLD A SUMMER FIESTA and the inauguration of San Jose Estates' gate and guardhouse to be led by Marilu M. Alferez, RHI senior vice president and general manager. Guests of honor are Antipolo City Rep. Victor Sumulong and Mayor Angelito Gatlabayan. Also invited are other city and barangay officials, real estate industry leaders and members, and prospective home lot buyers.

San Jose Estates is Robinsons Homes' newest residential development in Antipolo City. Situated on Circumferential Road, it is just a few minutes to and from the city's urban center where commercial centers, schools, hospitals, churches and other establishments are located. To name a few are Yñarez Sports Complex, Immaculate Concepcion Medical Center, Unciano Medical Center, La Salle School and Assumption College.

This exclusive subdivision offers choice lots to only about 200 homeowners. Available are residential lots with an average cut of 120 square meters, offered at an affordable price. Lot owners have the option of realizing their dream homes through RHI's easy terms on house construction. Future homeowners will also enjoy classy amenities such as parks and playground, gazebo and swimming pool, plus the protection of a gate and guardhouse. For inquiries, please call 395-2661 to 64, or e-mail at rhi@robinsonsland.com.

### Power deals for the handy(wo)man

HANDYMAN DO IT BEST HOME CENTER (HANDYMAN) HAS TEAMED UP WITH Black&Decker (B&D) to honor women DIY-ers—the fastest growing segment of the home improvement marketplace—through discounts and prizes and lots of power deals.

Ongoing until May 25 at Handyman are power deals that allow beginner and intermediate DIY-ers to start up on their personal toolboxes using B&D tools such as Impact or cordless drills and grinders at discounted prices. Women may also enjoy price cuts on selected home essentials such as steam iron, mini vacuum, wooden shelves, dish organizers, weighing scale and even toilet soft seats.

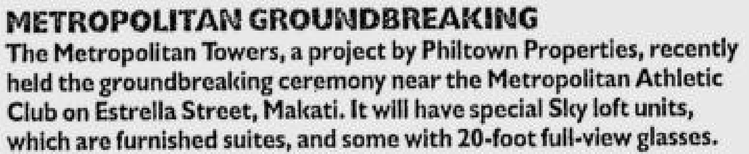
Handyman is also giving away B&D tools like 20 reversing hammer drills, 30 cordless dual speed reversing drill drivers and 50 reversible screwdrivers through a raffle draw. For every P1,000 worth of single-receipt purchase of any B&D tool until June 11, shoppers get a raffle coupon and a chance to win any of these 100 power tools. Raffle draw will be on June 23 at Handyman Do It Best Home Center in Robinsons Place Pioneer.

### Investing in real estate

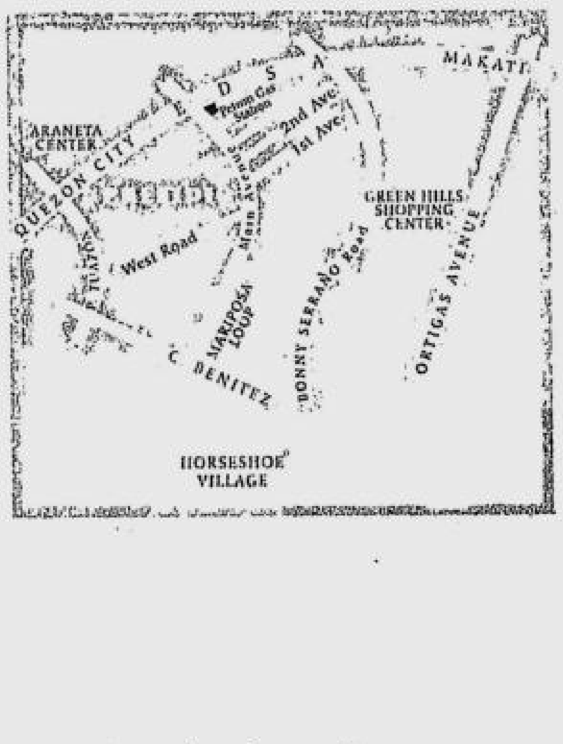
A 15–TOPIC SERIES OF LECTURES ON THE DIFFERENT HOW-TOS OF INVESTING in Real Estate will be conducted by Urban Institute of Real Estate from 1:30 to 6 p.m. every Monday, Wednesday and Friday, from June 26 to July 28 at the Maximo Function Room, second floor, Max's Restaurant, Glorietta 2, Ayala Center, Makati City.

The topics, which may be attended separately and are all stand alone are as follows: Investing in Real Estate: Opportunities, Techniques and What Are Needed to Learn before Investing—June 26; Legal Aspect of Sale, Mortgage and Lease with Contract Documentation and Registration—June 28; Management of Rental Properties: How to Maximize Income of Rental Properties—June 30; Joint Ventures and Syndications for Real Estate Projects—July 3; Taxation Aspects of Real Estate Transactions and Real Property Assessment—July 5; How to Start and Manage a Successful Real Estate Brokerage Company—July 7; Making Big Money in Distressed Properties—July 10; How-tos of Real Property Appraisal—July 12; Property Development Principles and Updates on HLURB Rules and Regulations—July 14; How-tos of Installment Sales and Lease-to-Own Scheme—17; Real Estate Finance and Investment Analysis—July 19; Mathematics of Real Estate Investment—July 21; Real Estate Accounting: Avoiding Violations and Penalties—July 24; How to Prevent and Remedy Foreclosure—July 26; and Buying and Financing Your First Home: What You Must Know—July 28.

This lecture series is accredited by DTI for CEP compliance and will have as lecturer lawyer Dennis Tablizo, noted rèsource speaker on land laws; and engineer Enrico Cruz, who has more than 35 years in real estate, engineering, construction, management and education. For other details, call Urban Institute at 681-0928 or 0916-426-9174 or e-mail at urbanet@pacific.net.ph.



**METROPOLITAN GROUNDBREAKING**
**The Metropolitan Towers, a project by Philtown Properties, recently held the groundbreaking ceremony near the Metropolitan Athletic Club on Estrella Street, Makati. It will have special Sky loft units, which are furnished suites, and some with 20-foot full-view glasses. Present during the groundbreaking are, from left, Philtown SVP for operations Mon Bienvenida, Jacob Ben-Moshe, Jess dela Fuente, Tina Periquet, Carlos Syquia, Philtown president and COO Terry Coronel, architect Meloy Casas, MAC president Francisco Buencamino and Philtown SVP for sales and marketing Kit Vergara.**



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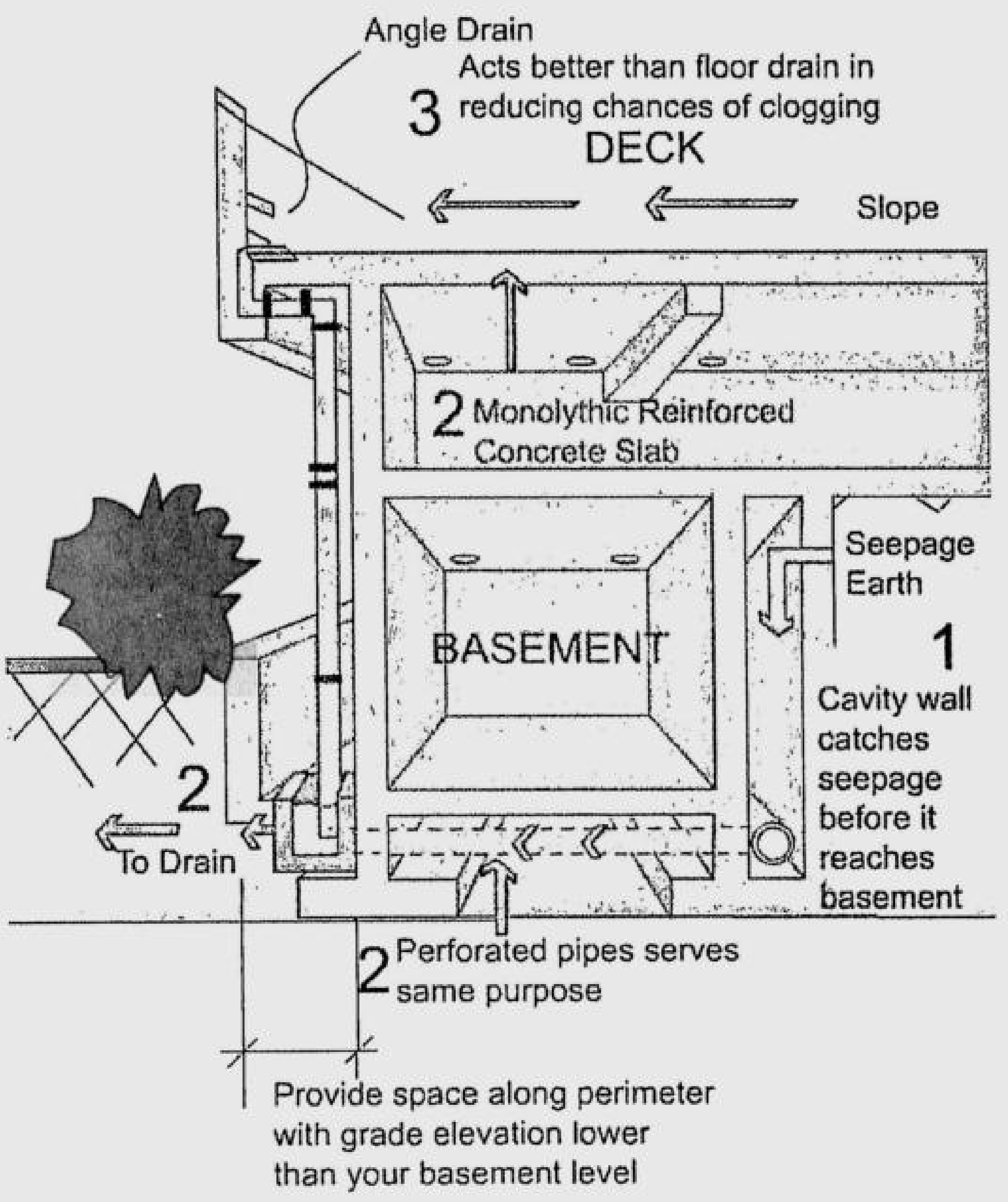
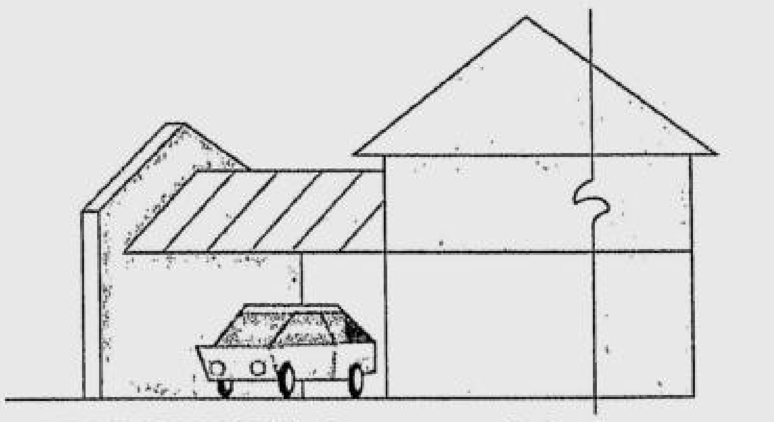
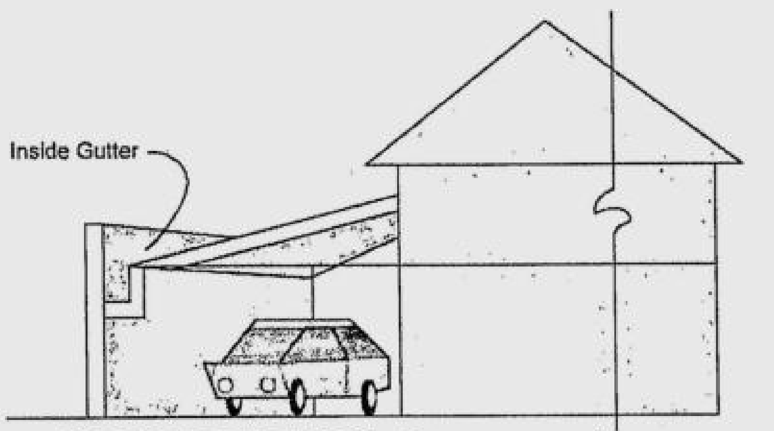
# Designing against roof leaks


Angle Drain
3 Acts better than floor drain in reducing chances of clogging
DECK
Slope
2 Monolythic Reinforced Concrete Slab
Seepage
Earth
BASEMENT
1 Cavity wall catches seepage before it reaches basement
2
To Drain
2 Perforated pipes serves same purpose
Provide space along perimeter with grade elevation lower than your basement level



APPROPRIATE: Garage roof slopes towards Front



INAPPROPRIATE: Garage roof slopes towards supporting wall

NOW THAT THE RAINY SEASON IS COMING, it is again time to look at our houses and buildings with an eye to avoiding problems regarding roof leaks. As in many other instances, it is better to prepare and prevent problem situations from arising, rather than having to drain and patch an already leaking roof. An essential part of prevention is proper planning and design.

Simplicity is the key. The simpler the roofing configuration, the less chances you have of leaks. A simpler plan also precludes less maintenance considerations. Roofing costs are lower too. A complicated roofing design may look good on paper, but not when you start spending a fortune on repairs and maintenance. At the onset, pose the challenge of a simple roof design to your architect and ask him to exercise his creativity elsewhere.

**LIVING ARCHITECTURE**

*Marcos de Guzman Jr.*

Consider good roofing material. Manufacturers would know the ideal roofing material for your building type, as well as how best to install the material you prefer. Consider their recommendation, it is not only product knowledge they bring to the fore, but the strength of product warranty that you can fall back on later. They can likewise suggest the correct undersheeting for your roof tiles or the proper slope required by other materials you may choose.

### Basic guide

Water should flow or drain away from the building. Remembering this basic guide when considering the structure, may help you avoid leaky situations. Avoid inside gutters. The faster the water drains from your roof the better. The less potential clogging areas there are, the easier it is to maintain.

Roof decks do not have to be potential leak sources, as long as they are monolithic, properly reinforced and drain properly to external collector drains. Wall-angle or scoffer drains or wire basket strainer drains are better than the regular floor drains for decks. Leaves and litter may cause the latter to clog, increasing the chance of leaks. Provide adequate downspouts, enough to prevent clogging especially during strong rain. Take note that it is easier to service these spouts from the ground rather than from the roof.

For rooms below grade, prioritize ways to drain the water away faster, rather than methods to prevent water from seeping in. This is where perforated pipe drains and double cavity walls work better than waterproofing.

Provide cleaning and maintenance access. Even before the need arises, ask your architect, sanitary engineer or developer for the proper way to maintain your storm drains. They must have ready and practical solutions to its accessibility and cleaning.

Do not depend on waterproofing chemicals. The roofing system should not leak even without a layer of waterproofing. The application of chemicals must only be a second line of defense. If you are dependent on it, expect higher regular maintenance costs.

An essential part of prevention is proper planning and design

### Artistic draining system

Draining systems can be handled artistically. Chains and collector vases may be used in place of downspouts.

In Europe, a more sensible approach has been to construct downspouts that are much bigger than gutters. In Japan, trenches are used in lieu of gutters. Stones are arranged in the trenches in such a way that they produce soothing sounds when hit by rainwater falling from the roof. In other countries, concealed water drainpipes are replaced by open shallow swells which are easier to maintain.

It is time to rethink standard practices and turn to more practical approaches to roof design, particular for our extreme weather conditions. We can research schemes that may be unused here but have worked elsewhere. This capacity to adapt and innovate, combined with practicality and artistic creativity, will help us achieve the perfect leak-resistant roof.

---

**A RELAXING** resort lifestyle can be experienced at Bali Mansions.

# South Forbes to energize new real estate boom

**CATHAY Land** president Jeffrey Ng

NOW THAT PROPERTY SERVICES AND CONsultancy firm CB Richard Ellis (CBRE) is projecting a long-term recovery and appreciation in property values starting this year, the world-class project of South Forbes Golf City is poised to further energize—and capitalize on—the projected property boom.

Said CBRE in its recently released Asia Pacific Investment Review for the second half of 2005: "With… the announcement of a number of new projects across all major real estate sectors, the real estate market appears to be entering the beginning of long-term recovery, a trend that will see property values begin to appreciate this year."

### No way to go but up

The firm also noted that office space rentals and sales in business districts have no way to go but up with continued demand from call centers and business process outsourcing (BPO) firms.

As for activity in the luxury residential segment, CBRE mentioned that sales will be driven by large-scale condominium and residential projects for the middle class and high-end leisure housing developments. The company noted that sales in this particular sector will likely be fueled by remittances from overseas-based Filipinos and the need of the expatriate community for posh residences.

The CBRE research in particular singled out one world-class project: South Forbes. "One such retirement/leisure project worth noting is Cathay Land's new South Forbes Golf City. Located south of Metro Manila, this 250-hectare, P5.25-billion project will become the country's world-class golf resort city, combining residential, leisure, business, commercial and golf amenities in one location," CBRE specified.

### Fastest selling

For his part, Cathay Land president Jeffrey Ng noted that South Forbes' unique offering of themed developments has made it the fastest-selling golf residential community in the country today. The charming homes at the Mediterranean Villas are ideal for starting families. The resort-inspired residences at Bali Mansions and the Zen community of Tokyo Mansions, meanwhile, are much sought after by those belonging to the high-end market.

Another project, Golf View Terraces, is a best-seller among top individuals who are looking forward to having the vista of the fairways of the world-class 18-hole South Forbes Golf Club from their units' balconies on a daily basis. "This condo project is ideal for overseas-based Filipinos and foreigners," Ng noted.

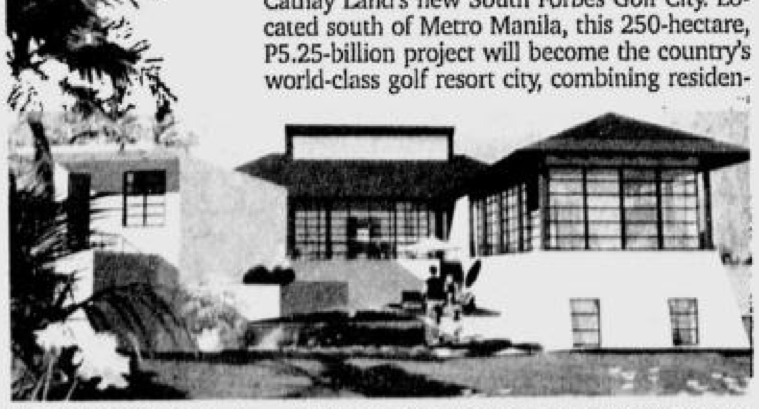
South Forbes' remarkable sales milestones can be attributed to its unbeatable offering to investors and potential residents: a free golf membership, at no activation fee, to the South Forbes Golf Club. This course was designed by no other than Asia's leading golf course designer, the International Management Group (IMG). South Forbes, as the first and only affiliate of the exclusive golf club of IMG SportsClub, also gives member-residents worldwide perks. They can play and get huge discounts in 42 top golf courses in Asia, North America and Europe.

### Another themed dev't

To continue whetting the appetite of the investor and homeowner markets for more innovative projects, South Forbes is set to launch another themed development, Chateaux de Paris, within the next few weeks.

"As the name implies, Chateaux de Paris will feature homes inspired by the grandeur of the lovely city of Paris and sprawling gardens," Ng said. He added that this innovative project will further promote South Forbes as a choice investment for Filipinos.

Wise investors can learn more about the choice investment options at South Forbes simply by calling 635-7777 or 631-8855 or visiting www.southforbes.com.



**THE YAMATO** is the largest Modern Zen residence at Tokyo Mansions.

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# *Portofino: The new Alabang*

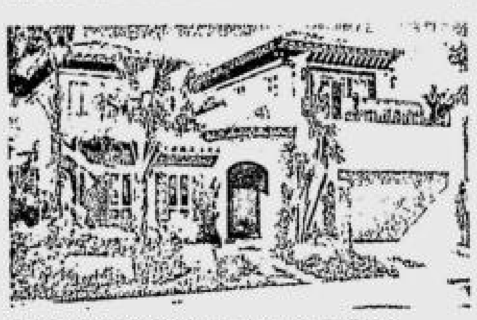
EVERYTHING HAS A REASON, IT HAS often been said. How the south of Manila progressed is proof that accidents do not happen. While reality did not immediately reflect the grandeur of the imagination, Alabang has now developed and taken its rightful place among the prominent central business districts in the metropolis.

This growing southern hub is no longer a satellite of Makati, but has risen to become a satellite of the world. The far south is booming with its technology and light industry parks churning out laptops, cars and semiconductors. At the heart of this phenomenal growth is Brittany Corp., a maverick real estate developer that has made turning the majesty of one's limitless imagination into a reality.

As real estate developments from the mid- to high-end move deeper south, the increased southern traffic has not affected the steady rise of property value in Alabang's upscale subdivisions since they were first sold over a decade ago. A true visionary, Brittany has foreseen the suburban expansion south of Manila and has developed properties suited to the more discriminating clients that are accustomed to the high life and everything that it entails. Its response to this demand? The Portofino development. This project brings together glamour and investment savvy in one breath-taking package.

### Value appreciation

Adjacent to the central business district of Alabang, Portofino has upped its value quickly even if it hasn't been in the market that long. Portofino has several pre-designed, Italian-Mediterranean inspired home and lot packages. The Cezanne, the 193-square-meter (2,076 sq ft) home, built on 224-sq-m lot, opened in the market at P8 million. Today, the same home and lot package has a minimum asking price of close to P11 million. The Raphael, with a 249-sq-m interior, and 306-sq-m lot, is worth P13 million today, and had an original asking price of P10 million.



**CEZANNE:** This 3-bedroom, 2-floor Mediterranean-inspired home is a masterpiece in both form and function.

**THE FLAGSHIP** model home of The Masters Collection, Michelangelo is a renaissance in luxurious Italian living.

A stunning expanse of rolling terrain and spectacular architecture, Portofino is the premier residential development of the near south, with several phases totaling over 300 hectares. Drawing inspiration from the Italian vision for *la dolce vita*, this expression of what may be the sweetest life possible in the country is a master-planned community that truly understands what it means to live one's life to the fullest. Cobblestones, sun-drenched colors, balconies and cupolas transport its residents to a world like no other.

### Major developments

The Italian-Mediterranean theme is consistent at each phase of the project. The first two phases have already been sold out, purchased by new homeowners and property speculators. Among the major Portofino developments are the Courtyards of Portofino and The Masters Collection.

The Courtyard home and lot packages start at P10 million. The Masters Collection offers eight distinctive homes to choose from, starting at about P20 million for the home and lot package. Several of the model homes are now on display, including the 625-sq-m flagship home, The Michelangelo. Lot owners can also have their own custom houses built, but architectural designs must conform to the Italian-Mediterranean design of the community.

For inquiries and property previews, please call 850-2868 or 850-3084, or visit www.brittany.com.ph.

**A RESPLENDENT** dome welcomes visitors to Portofino.

# Making . . .

From page B2-1

dard of the United Kingdom, Natural Color System Europe, RAL Colors of Germany and Nova Colors of Scandinavia.

Additional color selection from Davies' color galleries and other paint companies are also available.

Aside from these color selections, customers can also choose to have their own colors matched using Davies spectrophotomer, a high-tech instrument that gives out the color formula in an instant. The matched colors will then be stored in the company's color computer along with the customer's name for future reference and ordering.

"What is also interesting if you visit a Davies Color Factory station is the Color Image program, whereby a photograph of the customer's home or building will be converted digitally and downloaded to a computer. By masking on screen the areas the client want to paint, the Color Image program will place the chosen ready-to-mix color or color combination and a digital print-out will be produced so the customer may be able to visualize," related Lilibeth Ducut-Abais of LA Ducut and Co., the organizer of the upcoming 14th Construction Show Cebu where this Davies technology will be featured.

Abais said the whole process makes paint mixing much more accurate and less expensive.

## Fee waived

Abais added Davies will even waive the service fee from the Color Image processing if the customer decides to have the chosen colors mixed at the Davies Color Factory station.

"To further explain this breakthrough service, the Davies Color Factory station will be set up during the construction show, which will be held from June 2 to June 5 at the Cebu Trade Hall, 3/Floor SM City Cebu," informed Abais.

The Construction Show Cebu (e-mail: constructionshow@laducut.com.) is the longest and the biggest running annual construction exhibit in the southern Philippines.

# CrownAsia wins Trusted Brand award from Reader's Digest

CROWNASIA, THE COUNTRYS biggest builder of homes and master-planned communities for urban housing, is a winner in the Reader's Digest's 8th annual survey of brand performance, having been voted a Trusted Brand in the Philippine property market.

With its leadership in building homes and communities for middle-income families not only in Metro Manila but all over the country, CrownAsia earned a Gold Trusted Brand Award in the survey. The Gold award is a category for brands nominated by participants that score well above their competitors. Survey respondents scored brands for six core qualities: trustworthiness, credibility of image, quality, value, how well the brand understands consumers' needs, and its ability to innovate.

## Track record

With a track record established over the last decade, CrownAsia is a pioneer Master-Planned Community (MPC) Developer in the Philippines, committed to developing an upgraded line of residential community projects.

"From the start, our focus has been to help middle-income families build homes and communities that will fulfill their lifelong dreams," said Jerry Navarette, CrownAsia president. "Each of our communities combines strategic location and well-planned land use, offering homeowners a range of opportunities within a single, self-contained and environmentally responsible community," he added.

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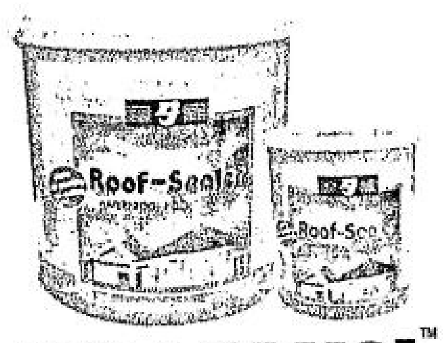
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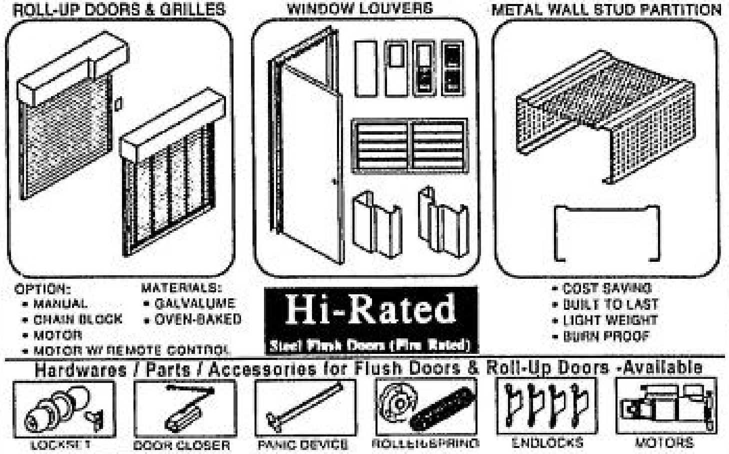
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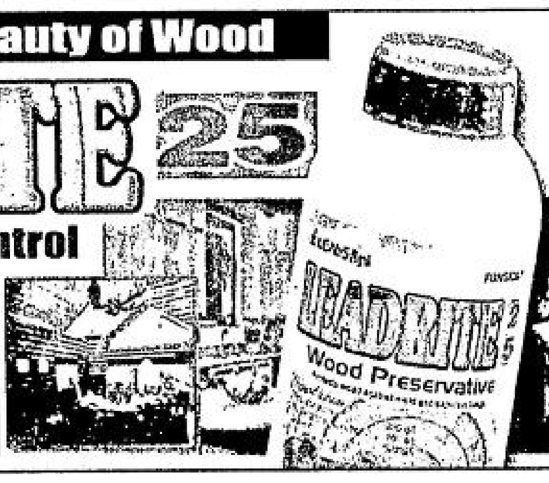
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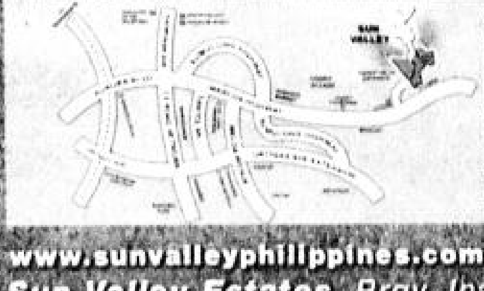

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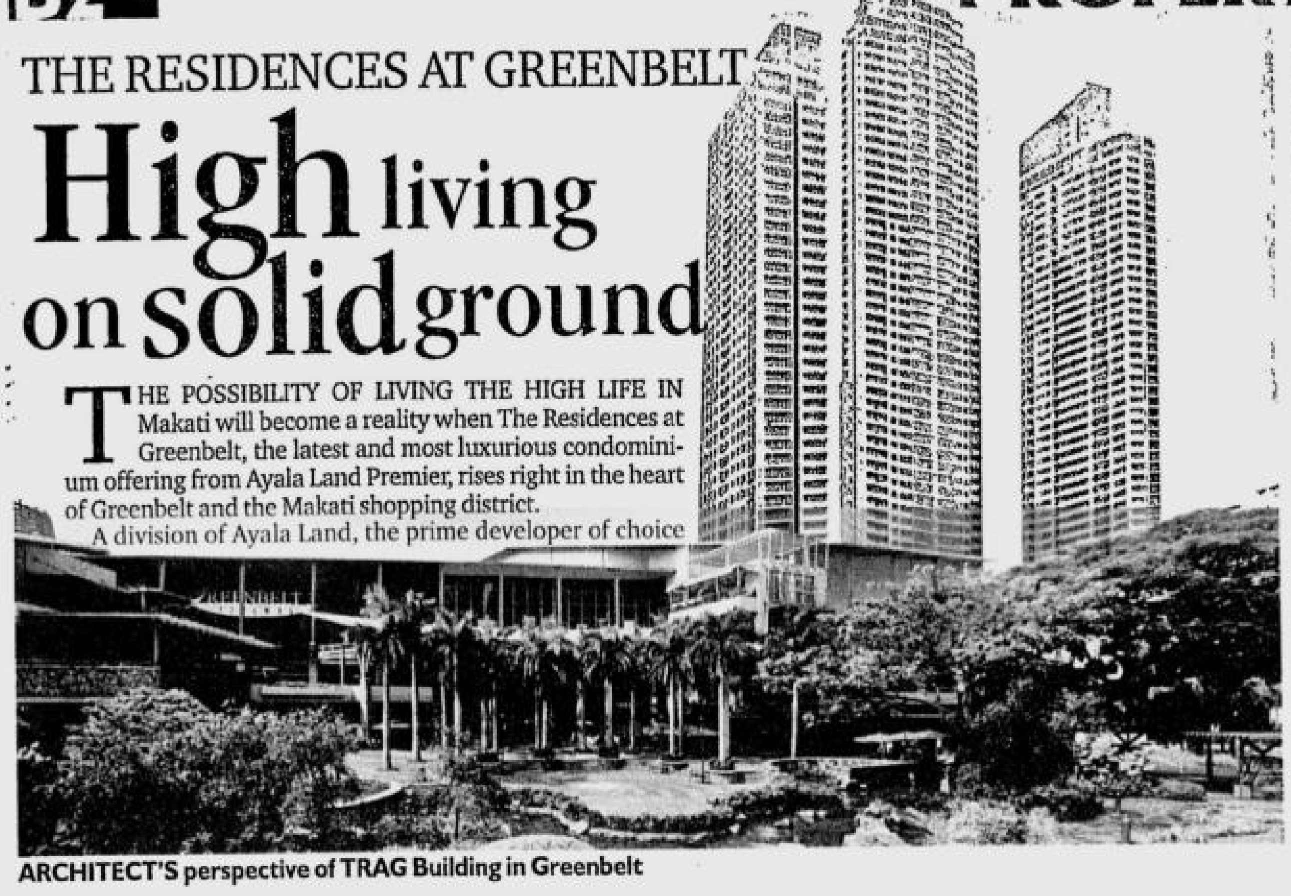
## THE RESIDENCES AT GREENBELT

# High living on solid ground


ARCHITECT'S perspective of TRAG Building in Greenbelt

THE POSSIBILITY OF LIVING THE HIGH LIFE IN Makati will become a reality when The Residences at Greenbelt, the latest and most luxurious condominium offering from Ayala Land Premier, rises right in the heart of Greenbelt and the Makati shopping district.

A division of Ayala Land, the prime developer of choice with a solid and undisputable history of integrity and reliability, Ayala Land Premier is the only high-end real estate developer in the Philippines and in the region as well that could arguably provide property owners with only the best master-planned living spaces and structures. This is because Ayala Land Premier teams up with only the best partners and consultants in the various fields involved in property development, who are at par with this industry leader's years of experience and capability.

### Structural integrity

For such a lofty goal as The Residences at Greenbelt, structural engineer Aromin & Sy has worked very closely with Ayala Land Premier from the inception of the project, ensuring the structural integrity of the groundbreaking development in Makati City.

The foundations of The Residences at Greenbelt's initial two towers—the Laguna and the San Lorenzo—currently under construction and on track for turnover in the very near future, are set at 13 to 18 meters below the ground. The site upon which The Residences at Greenbelt stands consists of solid adobe bedrock, as confirmed by numerous soil tests conducted in the area. This was also reconfirmed by Aromin & Sy and geotechnical consultant Dr. Salvador Reyes.

As The Residences at Greenbelt proceeds full steam ahead with its scheduled completion and turnover, Ayala Land Premier has brought in one of the world's most respected structural consulting firms to fortify the project's reliability and give assurance to unit owners that their dream of high life comes ever more close to reality.

Magnusson Klemencic Associates Inc. (MKA), an 82-year-old company with projects in 46 states and 40 countries and has engineered some of the most significant structural and civil engineering projects in the world. MKA president Ron Klemencic is chair of the Tall Buildings Council, an international organization established to facilitate professional exchanges among all those involved in all aspects of the planning, design, construction and operation of tall buildings. MKA is actually no stranger to The Residences at Greenbelt as it had already been part of the conceptualization of project from the very beginning.

### Assurance

MKA principal Larry G. Karlson visited the site last March 27 and noted that both the Laguna and San Lorenzo Towers of The Residences at Greenbelt are supported on a mat foundation bearing on bedrock at elevations ranging from 13 to 18 meters below street level.

He emphasized that any ground or clay soil layer movements within the immediate vicinity of the project site, though technically no longer even within the scope of responsibility or property of Ayala Land Premier, has negligible, if no effect at all on the structural soundness of The Residences at Greenbelt.

### Ideal location

"The location of The Residences is definitely ideal for high-rise projects," he emphasized.

Centrally located right at Greenbelt, the country's only lifestyle center, The Residences at Greenbelt is the only condominium development inextricably linked and located within the heart of the Makati Central Business District. It is the embodiment of Ayala Land Premier's commitment to providing exemplary living standards for the cosmopolitan dweller. Ayala Land Premier (ALP) is the new name for the top-end developments of Ayala Land providing exclusivity, security, ultimate comfort and privacy. It embodies Ayala Land's trademark legacy of enhancing the residents' quality of life with its portfolio of prime locations and trophy addresses.

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# *SM Mall of Asia opens tomorrow*

ENVISIONED AS THE PREMIERE DESTINATION in the Asia Pacific region, the SM Mall of Asia opens its doors to the public tomorrow.

Attractions awaiting shoppers during the opening include a panoramic view of the world famous Manila Bay, the country's first Imax theater and first Olympic-size ice skating rink, over 600 local and international brands as well as over 150 indoor and al fresco dining outlets.

FOUNTAINS

The 386,000-square-meter mall is located on a 19-hectare property on Bay Boulevard in Pasay City. It is SM Prime Holdings' 25th supermall and the company's most ambitious project to date.

The complex consists of four buildings linked by elevated walkways—the Main Mall, the North Parking Building, the South Parking Building, and the Entertainment Center Building.

The Main Mall will include shopping and dining establishments, the Food Court and the country's first Olympic-size ice skating rink. The South Parking Building will house the SM department store and half of the 5,000 parking spaces.

The North Parking Building will include the SM Hypermarket and more dining areas. Internal north and south streets were converted to landscaped pedestrian walkways, with outdoor retail and dining tenants.

One of the mall's attractions is the Entertainment Center Building, which will offer a spectacular view of the Bay with outdoor dining balconies and landscaped terraces. It will house 10 theaters, including a Director's Club and the country's first Imax theater.

The Mall of Asia's breathtakingly beautiful design is essentially abstract and modern. The curvilenear planes can be read either as sails or waves or wings, and it is this very abstraction which renders the design timeless, constantly reinvented in people's eyes.

The mall's interiors were designed with the customers in mind. Shop frontages and balustrades are largely glass in order to maximize views of the merchandise. Circular forms like waves, zigzags, and ovals also allow better views of the shops when viewed obliquely. Shop fronts, skylights, floor, and ceilings, while defintely striking in design, are kept simple. In general, the interiors are kept clean and free of unecessary details, so that they will not overpower the tenants and their merchandise.

While the mall's exteriors are party based on functional considerations, the design goes beyond mere functionality, giving a more dynamic aesthetic to the mall. Exterior walls are expressed as curving planes, intersecting with oval forms at the entrances and performance areas. Skylights are a varied progression of squares and oval forms.

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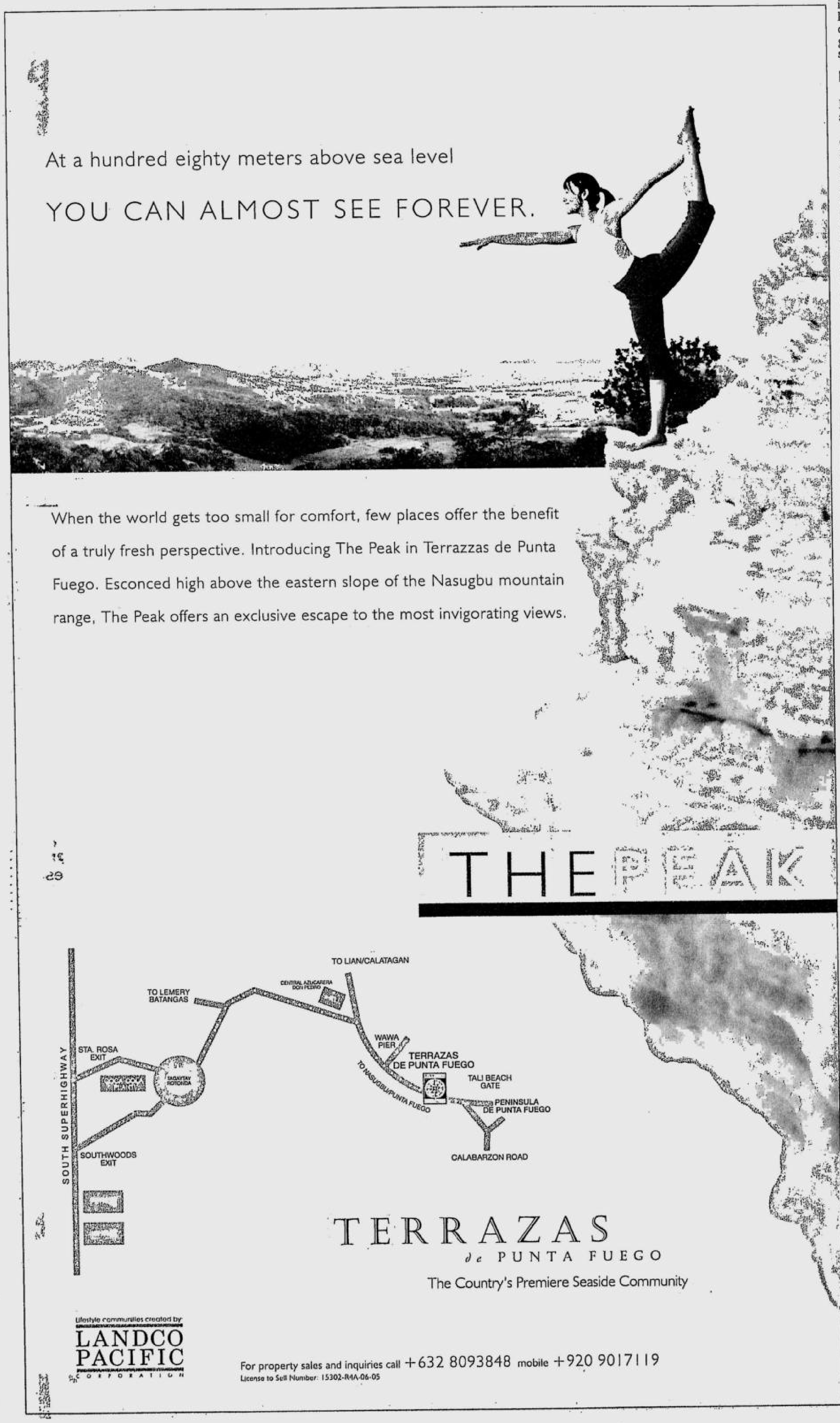
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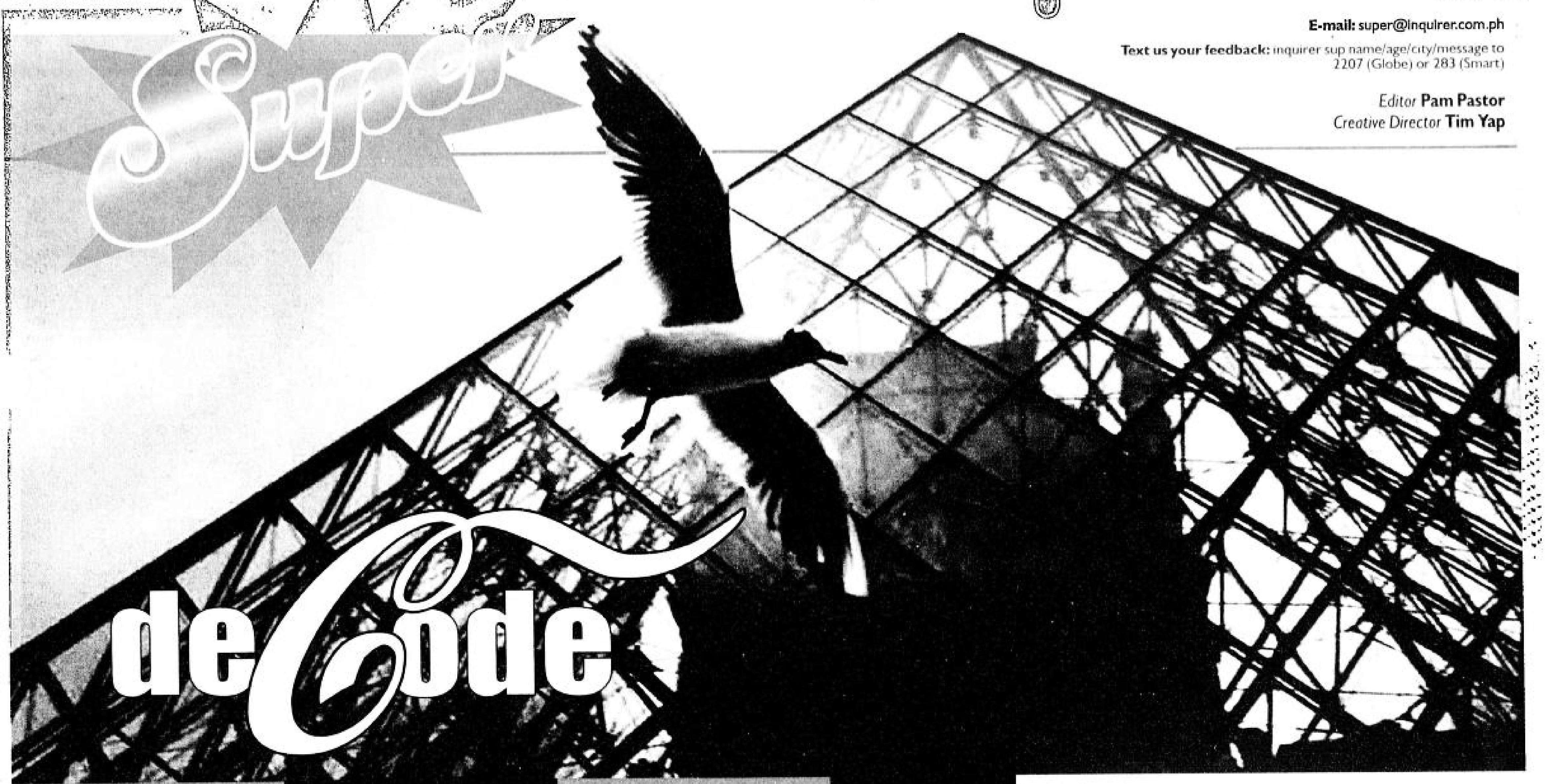


# deCode

**Pepe Diokno does da Vinci** page C2

**Bianca Valerio to walkdown Cannes' red carpet** page D1

**Jesse Suaco takes Gino de la Paz for a spin** page E1

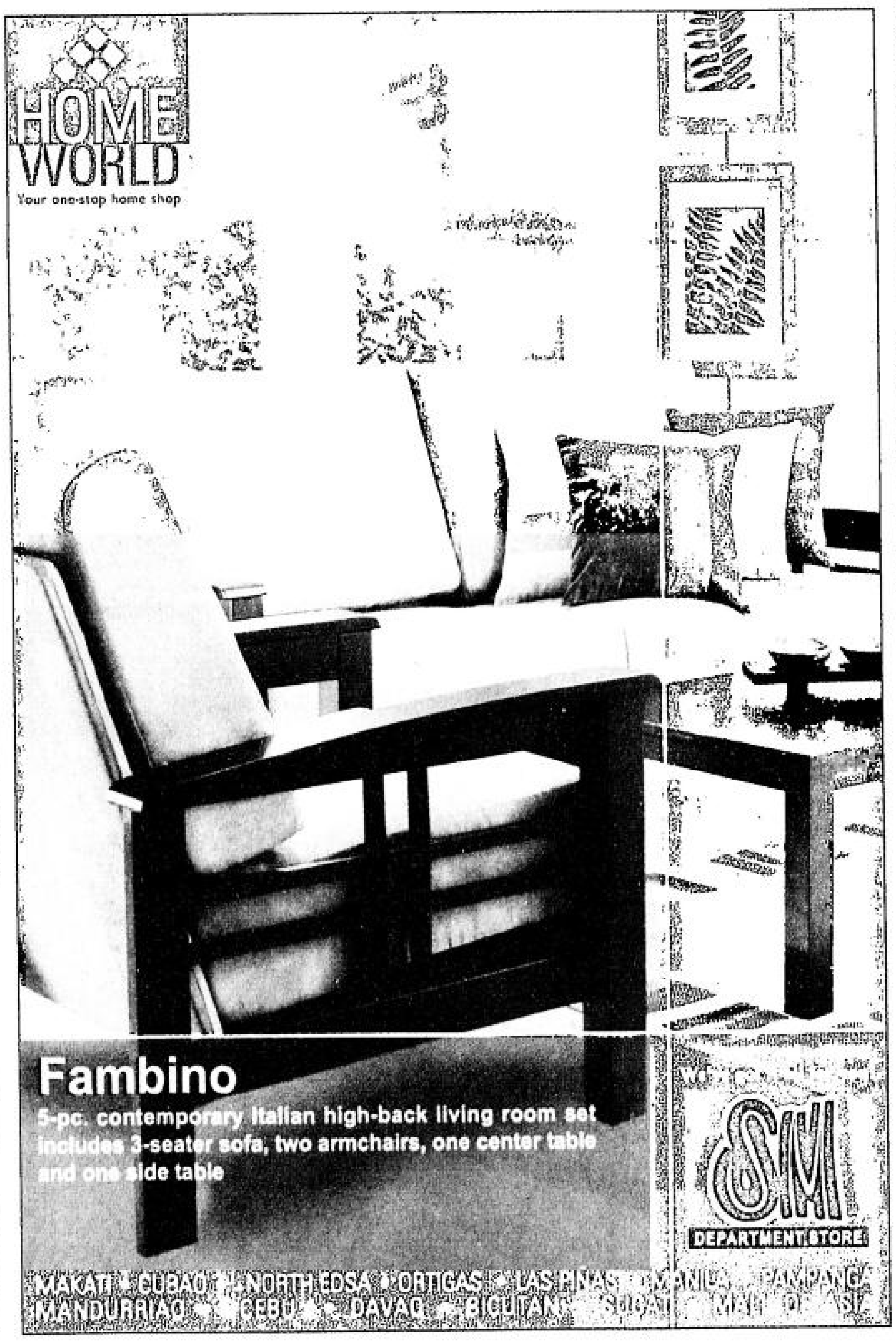
**Photography:**
**JUAN CAGUICLA**
**"Parispace/Paristreet"**
**at Greenbelt 3**
**and Alliance Francaise**

# Juan in Paris

AS PART OF THE CELEBRATION OF THE French Spring in Manila 2006, Alliance Française de Manille and the French Embassy in Manila are delighted to present "Regards croisés : Parispace/Paristreet," exhibit of photography by Juan Caguicla.

Juan Caguicla's Regards croisés: Parispace/Paristreet is a distinctive dual vision of an often romanticized world, through the raggedly honest, impartial lens of his camera. Thick with irony and a strange kind of beauty, it is essentially a visual diptych, a portrayal of two remarkably different visions of a single city—the grand, the romantic, and the sophisticated, against the gritty, the unsentimental, and the starkly real.

This show opens at the lobby of Ayala Greenbelt 3, Tuesday, May 16, and runs until June 1, 2006. These are also simultaneously displayed at the Alliance Française de Manille Total Gallery, 209 Nicanor Garcia Street (formerly Reposo St.), Bel Air 2, Makati City.



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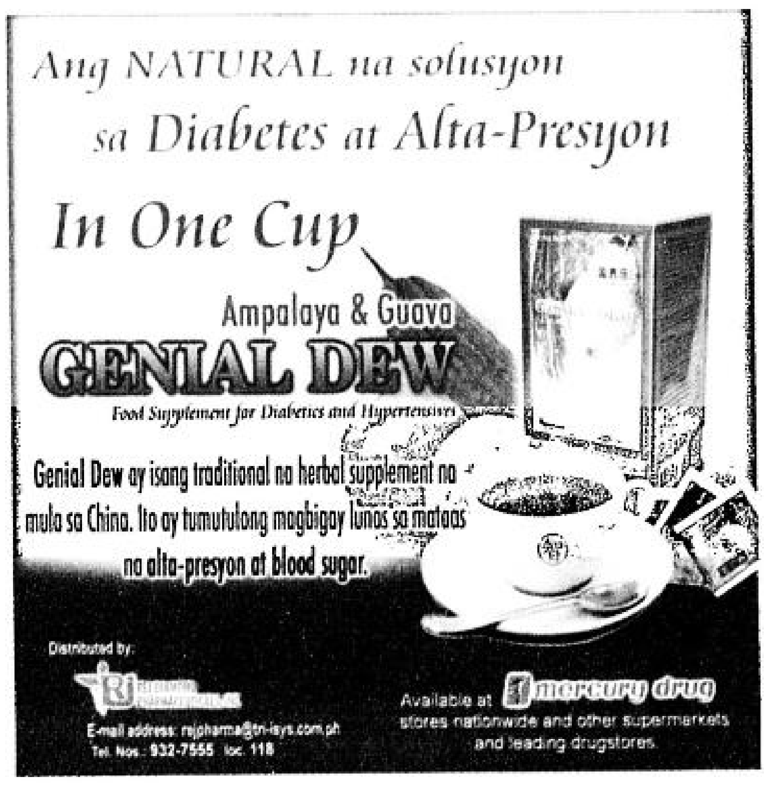

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PictBridge DiGIC II

# Da Vinci'd and Confused

By Pepe Diokno

THIS IS GREAT. Everyone seems to want to talk about "The Da Vinci Code." (And boy, must Columbia Pictures be happy.) It's been all over this paper, all over TV and on the Internet. It's a media frenzy!

Then again, you already know that. You know all the hoopla surrounding it. The uninitiated don't even have to flip a page of the book to know what it's about. We all know its claims, and the counter-claims. And we also know how irate some people are getting over it.

There are groups who want it banned, groups who want a disclaimer inserted before the film, and a government official who says it shouldn't even be talked about lest we "get struck by lightning." (That was last week's "*Proof our government officials are modern men*" moment.)

I'm not saying these people are crazy. I know they're not backward-thinking, close-minded people, who are trying to protect their own glass towers. No. They just obviously care about the youth of today, whose minds shouldn't be corrupted.

Oh yes, the youth. We've heard from theologists, and a bevy of other "-ists," but we have not heard much from us young people. So I gathered a few Super friends, and held a discussion. (Yes, we are capable of that.) Here they are:

**Joseph Villanueva** is 19, is a student at the University of California in Los Angeles (UCLA), and hopes to major in Business Economics.

**Anne Silva**, 17, is an incoming freshman at the Ateneo de Manila University.

**CJ de Silva**, 18, is a visual artist, and has had four one-woman exhibits. She is a fine arts student at the University of the Philippines.

**Raya Martin** is a 21-year-old filmmaker, has won the Ishmael Bernal Award for Young Cinema, was a participant at the Berlinale Talent Campus at the Berlin International Film Fest; and has won the Kodak Achievement Award for 35mm Best Thesis.

We talked about issues related to the book. If you pull your attention away from the "experts" for a moment, you might hear voices that live in the real world.

**Why do you think people are so freaked out over the Da Vinci Code?**

Anne: I think people are freaked out at movies that deal with religion because we're so defensive about it. We don't want our religion to be questioned, maybe because we don't know what we believe in in the first place. We're threatened that we'll stop believing once we see things from a different point of view.

Raya: "The Da Vinci Code" really isn't about the Magdalene proposition or conspiracy within the Church, because there's been other theories sprouting that aren't directly connected to the Da Vinci issues. I think it's about questioning the Church and old institutional traditions. Human society is still largely conservative and challenging older notions and beliefs naturally shakes the human system.

**Do you think the book, in any way, attacks one's faith?**

Joseph: Jesus Christ is a very sacred figure in the Christian religion and to say that he married a woman and had children with her is quite blasphemous, from a Christian's point of view. However, I do realize that Dan Brown's book is intended as a work of fiction and not as a deliberate attack on the Christian faith.

CJ: It depends on the reader. If the reader lets the book attack his/her faith, then it does attack one's faith. But if the reader takes it just as another fiction novel, there would be no attack.

Anne: I think it attacks one's Christian religion, but not exactly faith.

Raya: Faith is an abstract thing. I think the book bases much on concrete ideas, material ideas. If one's faith is dependent on that, then in a way yes. But you know how that kind of faith goes …

**What is faith? Is there a difference between faith and religion?**

Raya: Faith is a personal thing. Religion exists in the commune.

Joseph: Yeah. Faith is one's belief in something, be it a person, a deity, an ideal or any sort of entity. There is a difference between faith and religion. Religion is usually a more structured set of spiritual beliefs, while faith alone does not usually have any sort of set doctrines and dogmas.

CJ: I'll put it in terms of painting. My passion to paint is my faith. The paper, the watercolor (or any other medium), is my religion. *Kumbaga*, religion is a vehicle of faith.

**Is it possible to have faith without religion? What is your opinion of people who do not adhere to one religion?**

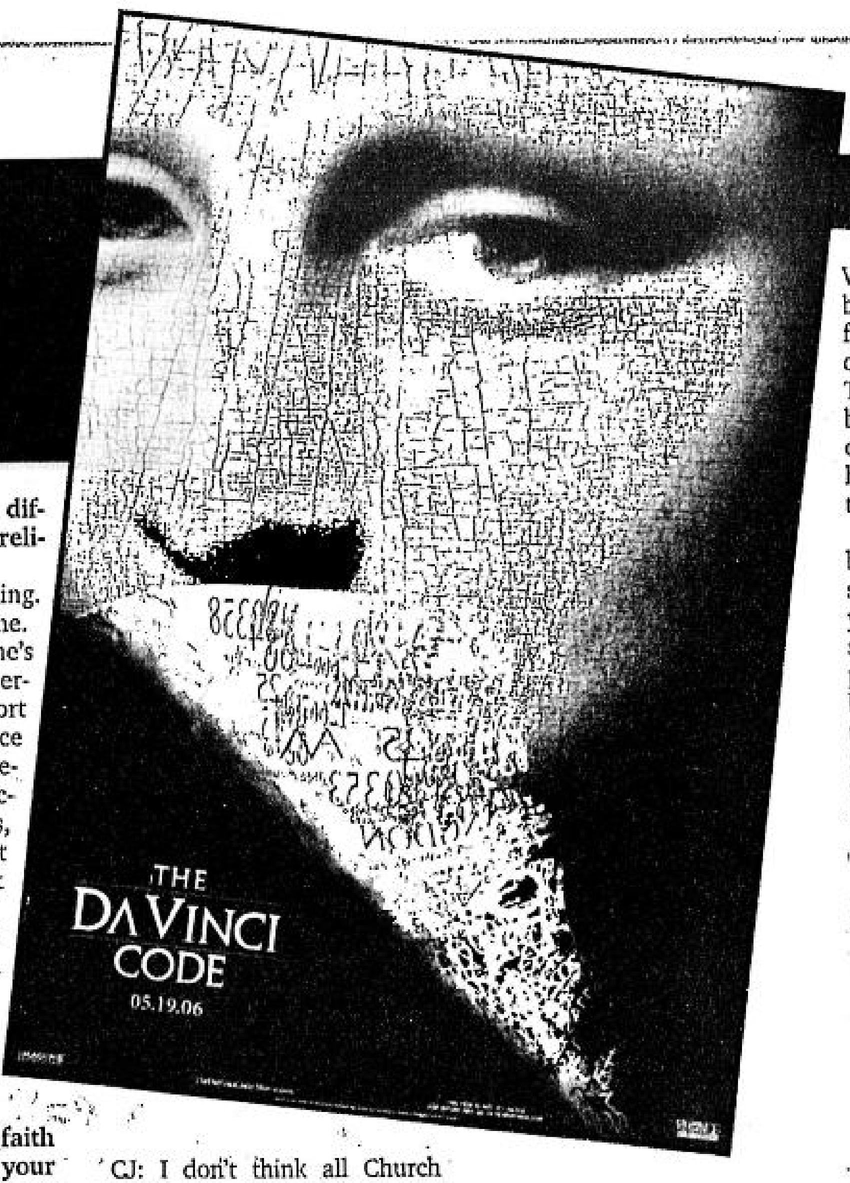
CJ: I don't think that faith without religion is possible. Here's an analogy: water is faith and religion is the bottle. For water to at least be consumed or "experienced," we need a bottle—or hand—to drink it from.

On the other hand, I think that people (who don't adhere to one religion) are just "maximizing" the privilege to choose. Of course each religion demands one's loyalty, but I think it's more a political issue than a spiritual one.

Anne: I think it's possible to have faith without religion. I think people who do not adhere to one religion are probably not satisfied with one religion's explanations of certain things. By me, they're okay, as long as they don't offend anybody or try to shoot down those who are truly religious.

**Do you think that all Church teachings are divinely inspired?**

Anne: No. Some teachings just stem from man's insatiable appetite for power. Like the Crusades. True, the Vatican apologized for that, but back then, people thought that killing was correct because the Pope said so. Just shows how even the Church can make faulty teachings. What if what we're being told to believe now is proved to be erroneous in the future?



CJ: I don't think all Church teachings are divinely inspired. I consider the Bible as something divinely inspired, but those who teach it, or interpret it would always have biases, or motives, may it be political or personal. Another example is the Spanish period—isn't it obvious that Church teachings were just icing on top of the cake of colonization?

**Do you think God is dismayed or offended by the book?**

Anne: If you see it from a religious point of view, you'd say He's offended because you're not supposed to question Him; it's a sin. However, questioning is part of the freedom He has given us. Christianity gives way to religious dialogue, and I think this book should just fall under that. I don't think it's right to condemn religions, but if it happens that they condemn us, we're not supposed to fight back. As the saying goes, "when provoked, respond with love."

CJ: I don't think God is offended at the book itself. I think He might be a bit disappointed at those who read it and took it in the wrong way. I think He is sad that there are people whom he gave enough intellect and heart, yet did not use it. But I think God and Jesus are beyond what the Catholic Church teaches. I think they are considerate enough to see that the world is very diverse. So I think they understand.

**Did the book, or its premise, offend you in any way?**

Joseph: As a Christian, yes I do find the book's portrayal of Christ offensive to my religious beliefs.

CJ: I think the people who absorb the book so much are the ones who tend to offend. Isn't it annoying when you meet a Da Vinci code fanatic who keeps on blabbing about the controversial facts the book has, as if it was the only truth in the whole world? That's offending. When somebody lets you question your faith or disproves it just because he/she read the Da Vinci code, that's offensive.

But the people who judge the book negatively are also offensive. It's okay if you express that you didn't like it because you just simply did not like it. But for people to actually say it's a bad novel because it features several controversies about the Catholic faith, they're bad. People who take the book with a close mind are the ones who tend to become offensive.

Raya: I think it's an interesting perspective to have. Its premise tests one's openness to views rather than offend.

**How old do you think one should be to read the book or watch the movie? (It was given an R18 rating here.)**

CJ: It's not an issue of how old. I've met kids who are smart enough to understand the novel or the movie, without getting too obsessed with it. And yet there may be people in their 50's or 40's who are not open minded enough to get the novel or the movie. I'm not in the place to tell people what to watch and what not to watch. It's a personal choice.

**What do you think of efforts to ban the movie? (It was recently banned in the City of Manila.)**

Anne: They are futile. The more attention is given to it, the more people will become curious and desperate to see it. They'll find ways. The more it's suppressed, the more antagonistic people will become.

Joseph: I think it is ridiculous. Most movies produced are bound to offend at least some people, but that does not mean it they should be banned. If you think a movie is going to offend you, then perhaps you should not see it, but there are a lot of people who might not find the movie offensive, and banning the movie would be unfair to them.

CJ: Sorry, but I have to be rude. I think it's stupid. It's very offensive to know there are people who actually think they are in the place to tell you what to watch and what not to watch. It's annoying how there are people that assume the capabilities of Filipinos to understand and process the movie. We are no longer infants who are so naïve and who do not know

SUPER! SPOTTING

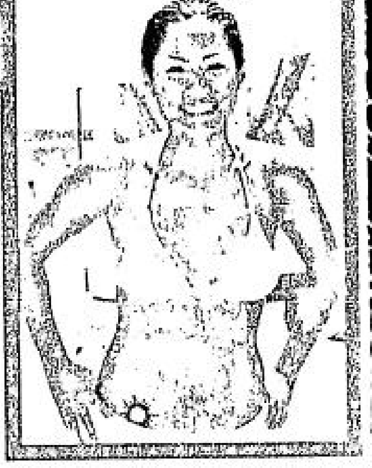
## Summer reminiscing

BZ VISION. Bianca Zobel wears her sunglasses at night

WHAT A SIGHT. Kelly Misa is addicted to sunny cocktails

BOY IN THE SHADE. Brent Javier looks to the future

NESTLE CHICK. Mylene Dizon is one sexy momma



FITNESSE FAB. Reema Chanco at the Nestle Fitnesse event

A PLUS. Addict endorsers Cristina Garcia and Tim Yap enjoy the sunset

By Chabs Rubio

YES, I KNOW THE RAINY SEASON HAS arrived. Amidst the dark gloomy clouds that the storms have brought in, I can't help but help wax nostalgic about last season's summer escapades.

The minute Super! arrived on the shores of summer's favorite island, I overheard a speaker announce a belly dancing class by Mylene Dizon. I looked around for the fit mom and saw her leading a class of like minded women wiggling their hips under the banner of Nestle Fitnesse Cereal. You see, Bora is not just for the party crazy tribe, it is also for the health conscious set, as I observed women stretching it out all in the sun all in the name of fitness. "Exercise is the new ecstacy," we at Super! once declared.

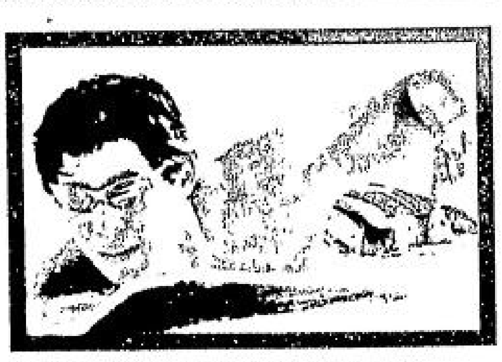
By sunset, I hopped over to Pier One where I spotted Century Tuna's Ricardo Po hand in hand with Trish Panlilio. It was refreshing to see old friends enjoying their freedom without a care in the world.

SUNNY SIDE UP. Anne Curtis just does it for us.

FITNESSE ICON. Jackie Lou Blanco embodies healthy living

FREEDOM FROM FAT. Nancy Castiglione celebrates her figure

BEACH BUBS. Bubbles Paraiso donning Nike's latest eyewear



SWIM FAN. Skim boarding with Paolo Paraiso in Nike Vision

Around the island, Super! contributing photog Ramon Mangila was taking snapshots of hipsters wearing Nike Vision, the sporty eyewear of choice of my Addict mobile mates Cristina Garcia, Kelly Misa and Brent Javier. Actors Jackie Castillejo, Michael de Mesa and Paolo Paraiso also bathed in the sun donning these as pretty young things Anne Curtis and Bubbles Paraiso turned heads.

Ah summer!

SUMMER HOLIDAY. Ricardo Po and Trish Panlilio spotted at Pier One

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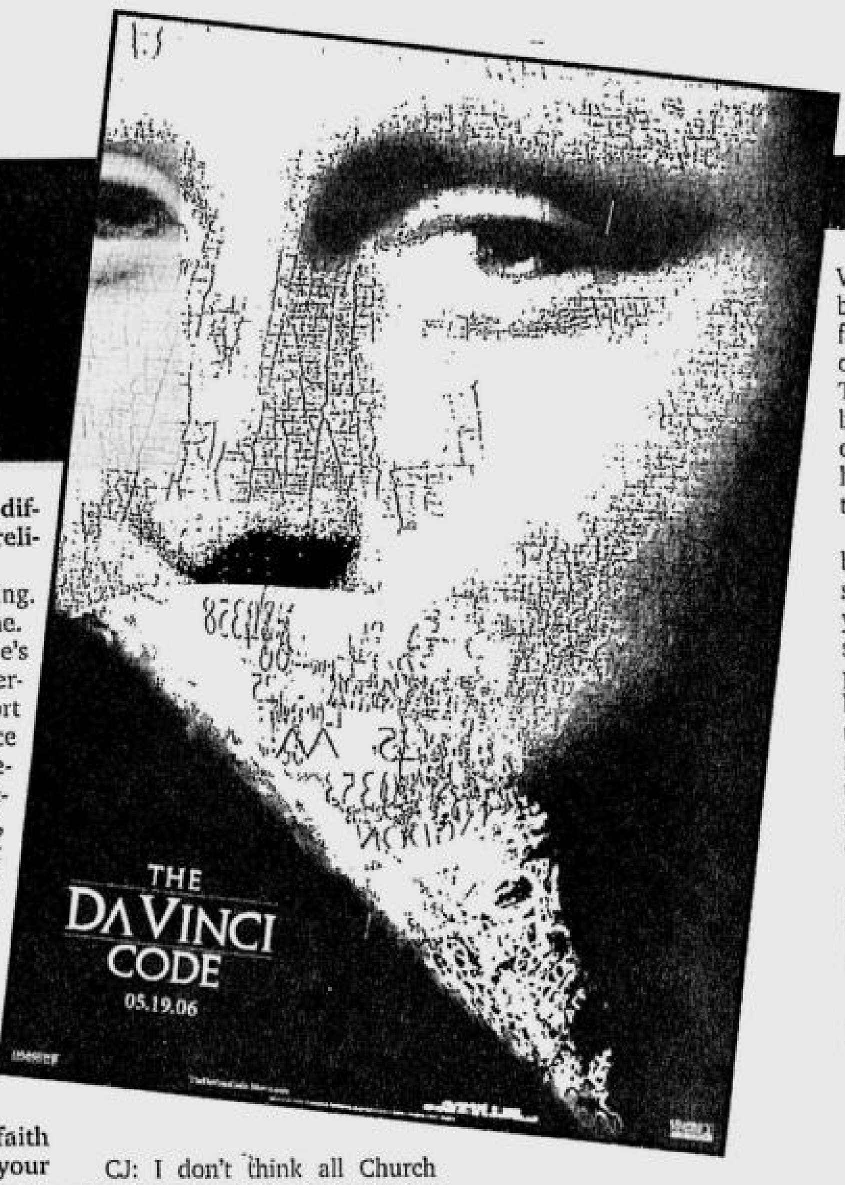
# Da Vinci'd and Confused

By Pepe Diokno



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There are groups who want it banned, groups who want a disclaimer inserted before the film, and a government official who says it shouldn't even be talked about lest we "get struck by lightning." (That was last week's "*Proof our government officials are modern men*" moment.)

I'm not saying these people are crazy. I know they're not backward-thinking, close-minded people, who are trying to protect their own glass towers. No. They just obviously care about the youth of today, whose minds shouldn't be corrupted.

Oh yes, the youth. We've heard from theologists, and a bevy of other "-ists," but we have not heard much from us young people. So I gathered a few Super friends, and held a discussion. (Yes, we are capable of that.) Here they are:

**Joseph Villanueva** is 19, is a student at the University of California in Los Angeles (UCLA), and hopes to major in Business Economics.

**Anne Silva**, 17, is an incoming freshman at the Ateneo de Manila University.

**CJ de Silva**, 18, is a visual artist, and has had four one-woman exhibits. She is a fine arts student at the University of the Philippines.

**Raya Martin** is a 21-year-old filmmaker, has won the Ishmael Bernal Award for Young Cinema, was a participant at the Berlinale Talent Campus at the Berlin International Film Fest; and has won the Kodak Achievement Award for 35mm Best Thesis.

We talked about issues related to the book. If you pull your attention away from the "experts" for a moment, you might hear voices that live in the real world.

**Why do you think people are so freaked out over the Da Vinci Code?**

Anne: I think people are freaked out at movies that deal with religion because we're so defensive about it. We don't want our religion to be questioned, maybe because we don't know what we believe in in the first place. We're threatened that we'll stop believing once we see things from a different point of view.

Raya: "The Da Vinci Code" really isn't about the Magdalene proposition or conspiracy within the Church, because there's been other theories sprouting that aren't directly connected to the Da Vinci issues. I think it's about questioning the Church and old institutional traditions. Human society is still largely conservative and challenging older notions and beliefs naturally shakes the human system.

**Do you think the book, in any way, attacks one's faith?**

Joseph: Jesus Christ is a very sacred figure in the Christian religion and to say that he married a woman and had children with her is quite blasphemous, from a Christian's point of view. However, I do realize that Dan Brown's book is intended as a work of fiction and not as a deliberate attack on the Christian faith.

CJ: It depends on the reader. If the reader lets the book attack his/her faith, then it does attack one's faith. But if the reader takes it just as another fiction novel, there would be no attack.

Anne: I think it attacks one's Christian religion, but not exactly faith.

Raya: Faith is an abstract thing. I think the book bases much on concrete ideas, material ideas. If one's faith is dependent on that, then in a way yes. But you know how that kind of faith goes ...

**What is faith? Is there a difference between faith and religion?**

Raya: Faith is a personal thing. Religion exists in the commune.

Joseph: Yeah. Faith is one's belief in something, be it a person, a deity, an ideal or any sort of entity. There is a difference between faith and religion. Religion is usually a more structured set of spiritual beliefs, while faith alone does not usually have any sort of set doctrines and dogmas.

CJ: I'll put it in terms of painting. My passion to paint is my faith. The paper, the watercolor (or any other medium), is my religion. *Kumbaga*, religion is a vehicle of faith.

**Is it possible to have faith without religion? What is your opinion of people who do not adhere to one religion?**

CJ: I don't think that faith without religion is possible. Here's an analogy: water is faith and religion is the bottle. For water to at least be consumed or "experienced," we need a bottle—or hand—to drink it from.

On the other hand, I think that people (who don't adhere to one religion) are just "maximizing" the privilege to choose. Of course each religion demands one's loyalty, but I think it's more a political issue than a spiritual one.

Anne: I think it's possible to have faith without religion. I think people who do not adhere to one religion are probably not satisfied with one religion's explanations of certain things. By me, they're okay, as long as they don't offend anybody or try to shoot down those who are truly religious.

**Do you think that all Church teachings are divinely inspired?**

Anne: No. Some teachings just stem from man's insatiable appetite for power. Like the Crusades. True, the Vatican apologized for that, but back then, people thought that killing was correct because the Pope said so. Just shows how even the Church can make faulty teachings. What if what we're being told to believe now is proved to be erroneous in the future?

CJ: I don't think all Church teachings are divinely inspired. I consider the Bible as something divinely inspired, but those who teach it, or interpret it would always have biases, or motives, may it be political or personal. Another example is the Spanish period—isn't it obvious that Church teachings were just icing on top of the cake of colonization?

**Do you think God is dismayed or offended by the book?**

Anne: If you see it from a religious point of view, you'd say He's offended because you're not supposed to question Him; it's a sin. However, questioning is part of the freedom He has given us. Christianity gives way to religious dialogue, and I think this book should just fall under that. I don't think it's right to condemn religions, but if it happens that they condemn us, we're not supposed to fight back. As the saying goes, "when provoked, respond with love."

CJ: I don't think God is offended at the book itself. I think He might be a bit disappointed at those who read it and took it in the wrong way. I think He is sad that there are people whom he gave enough intellect and heart, yet did not use it. But I think God and Jesus are beyond what the Catholic Church teaches. I think they are considerate enough to see that the world is very diverse. So I think they understand.

**Did the book, or its premise, offend you in any way?**

Joseph: As a Christian, yes I do find the book's portrayal of Christ offensive to my religious beliefs.

CJ: I think the people who absorb the book so much are the ones who tend to offend. Isn't it annoying when you meet a Da Vinci code fanatic who keeps on blabbing about the controversial facts the book has, as if it was the only truth in the whole world? That's offending. When somebody lets you question your faith or disproves it just because he/she read the Da Vinci code. that's offensive.

But the people who judge the book negatively are also offensive. It's okay if you express that you didn't like it because you just simply did not like it. But for people to actually say it's a bad novel because it features several controversies about the Catholic faith, they're bad. People who take the book with a close mind are the ones who tend to become offensive.

Raya: I think it's an interesting perspective to have. Its premise tests one's openness to views rather than offend.

**How old do you think one should be to read the book or watch the movie? (It was given an R18 rating here.)**

CJ: It's not an issue of how old. I've met kids who are smart enough to understand the novel or the movie, without getting too obsessed with it. And yet there may be people in their 50's or 40's who are not open minded enough to get the novel or the movie. I'm not in the place to tell people what to watch and what not to watch. It's a personal choice.

**What do you think of efforts to ban the movie? (It was recently banned in the City of Manila.)**

Anne: They are futile. The more attention is given to it, the more people will become curious and desperate to see it. They'll find ways. The more it's suppressed, the more antagonistic people will become.

Joseph: I think it is ridiculo Most movies produced are bound to offend at least some peop but that does not mean it th should be banned. If you thin movie is going to offend you, th perhaps you should not see it, b there are a lot of people w might not find the movie offensive, and banning the movie would be unfair to them.

CJ: Sorry, but I have to be rude. I think it's stupid. It's very offensive to know there are people who actually think they are in the pl to tell you what to watch and what not to watch. It's annoying how there are people that assume the capabilities of Filipinos to understand and process the movie. We are no longer infants who are so naïve and who do not know

This

## SUPER! SPOTTING

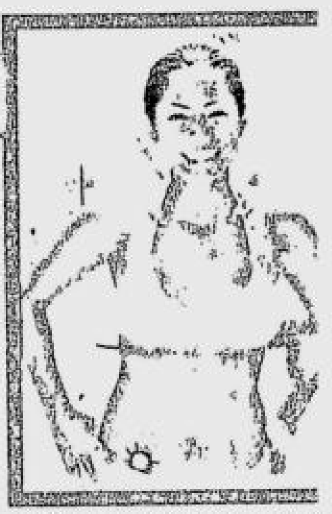
# Summer reminiscing

BZ VISION. Bianca Zobel wears her [illegible]

WHAT A SIGHT. Kelly Misa is addicted to sunny cocktails

IN THE SHADE. Brent Javier looks to the future

NESTLE CHICK. Mylene Dizon is one sexy momma



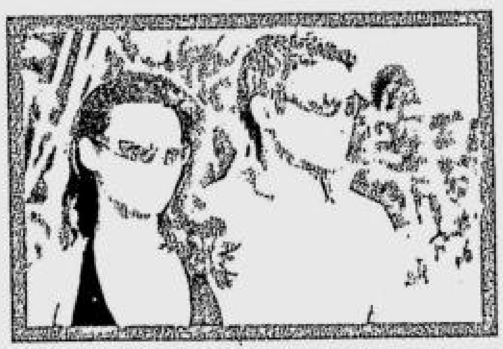
FITNESSE FAB. Reema Chanco at the Nestle Fitnesse event

By Chabs Rubio

YES, I KNOW THE RAINY SEASON HAS arrived. Amidst the dark gloomy clouds that the storms have brought in, I can't help but help wax nostalgic about last season's summer escapades.

The minute Super! arrived on the shores of summer's favorite island, I overheard a speaker announce a belly dancing class by Mylene Dizon. I looked around for the fit mom and saw her leading a class of like minded women wiggling their hips under the banner of Nestle Fitnesse Cereal. You see, Bora is not just for the party crazy tribe, it is also for the health conscious set, as I observed women stretching it out all in the sun all in the name of fitness. "Exercise is the new ecstacy," we at Super! once declared.

By sunset, I hopped over to Pier One where I spotted Century Tuna's Ricardo Po hand in hand with Trish Panlilio. It was refreshing to see old friends enjoying their freedom without a care in the world.



A PLUS. Addict endorsers Cristina Garcia and Tim Yap enjoy the sunset

SUNNY SIDE UP. Anne Curtis just does it for us.

FITNESSE ICON. Jackie Lou Blanco embodies healthy living

FREEDOM FROM FAT. Nancy Castiglione celebrates her figure

BEACH BUBS. Bubbles Paraiso donning Nike's latest eyewear

SWIM FAN. Skim boarding with Paolo Paraiso in Nike Vision

Around the island, Super! contributing photog Ramon Mangila was taking snapshots of hipsters wearing Nike Vision, the sporty eyewear of choice of my Addict mobile mates Cristina Garcia, Kelly Misa and Brent Javier. Actors Jackie Castillejo, Michael de Mesa and Paolo Paraiso also bathed in the sun donning these as pretty young things Anne Curtis and Bubbles Paraiso turned heads.

Ah summer!

SUMMER HOLIDAY. Ricardo Po and Trish Panlilio spotted at Pier One

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Photos by Juan Caguicla

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**Do you think that the government is right to ban movies in general?**

Raya: No.

Joseph: In my opinion, the only time a government has the right to ban any movie is during a time of war, when the movie in question could significantly lower the country's morale. Aside from that, no I do not think a government should ban movies.

Anne: Porn. I'm talking about the kind you see in those really old cinemas; the ones where sexual acts are done in the movie—and in the movie house. If the government can curb that garbage, then maybe we'd have a better society.

CJ: I think it's wrong. I think in a democratic country like ours, there should always be a choice. Banning a movie doesn't make Filipinos smarter; it just makes us ignorant.

**What do you think of cutting movies? (Censors cutting "questionable" parts of a movie.)**

Anne: I think it's okay, especially in films that are exaggeratedly gory or sexual, but still have good content. I'm a fan of films which are just suggestive and entail the use of your own imagination. It makes you more engaged in watching the movie and analyzing events.

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**The Philippine government has banned movies like "Live Show" and "The Last Temptation of Christ." What do you think this says about Filipino society?**

Anne: I think we're threatened by things we don't know about. We're not as educated as we may think we are. When we see these things we don't know how to deal with, we'd rather not see it at all.

CJ: I think our society is struggling in a battle against ignorance and blind morality. There are people who still see fellow Filipinos as little, naïve kids who are unable to understand these kinds of movies. I also think that we have this "plastic" mentality wanting to mask everything that's "unpleasant." Let's take the movie Live Show. This film was banned for having highly sexual scenes and profanity. But this movie is roughly based on real life situations. Live shows actually happen; people cuss on streets when they're angry. That's what draws to me to the conclusion that Filipino society is still immature—it denies the reality instead of facing it. We also don't try to see things in different perspectives.

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*Email the author at pepe@iampepe.com.*

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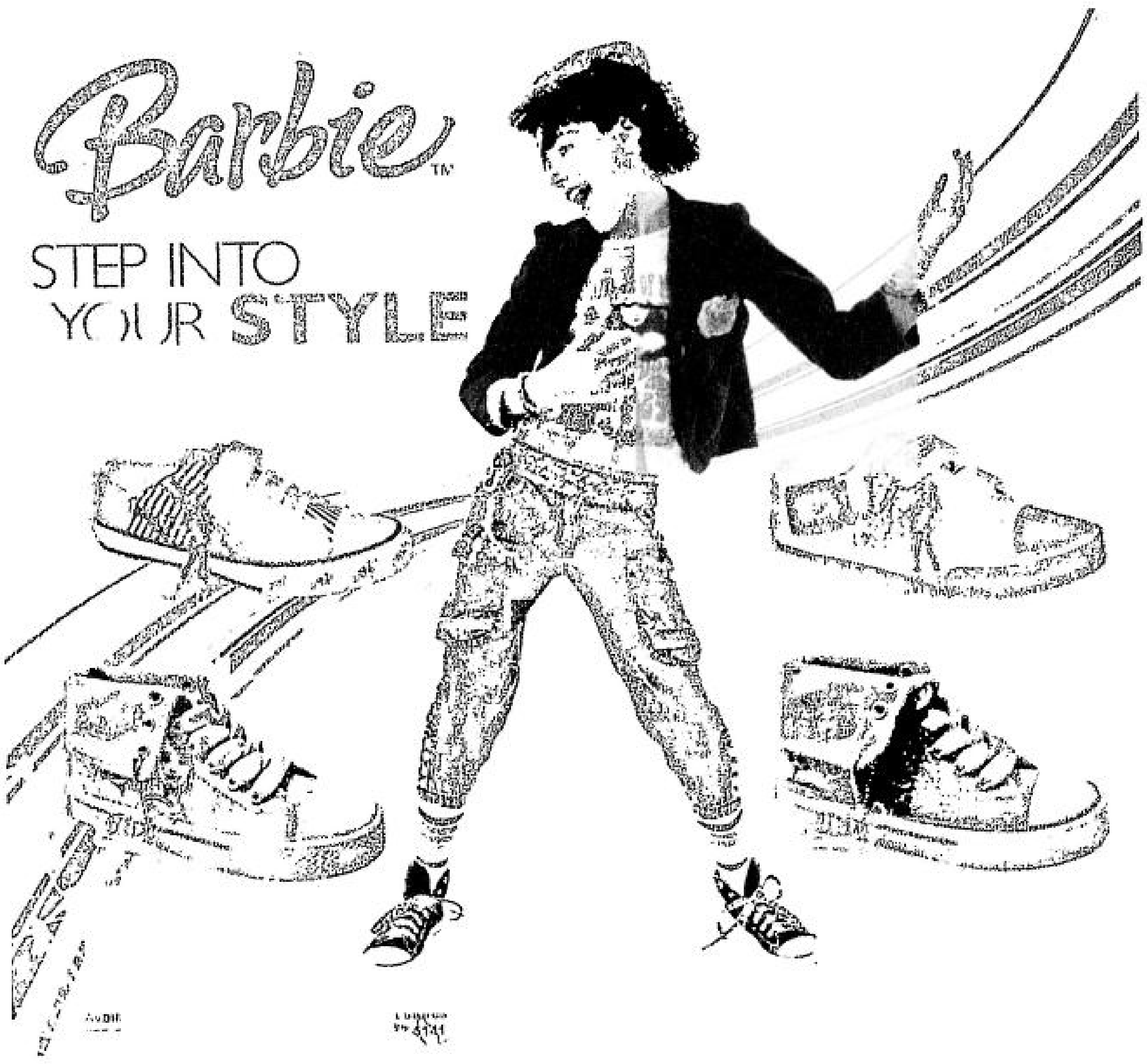

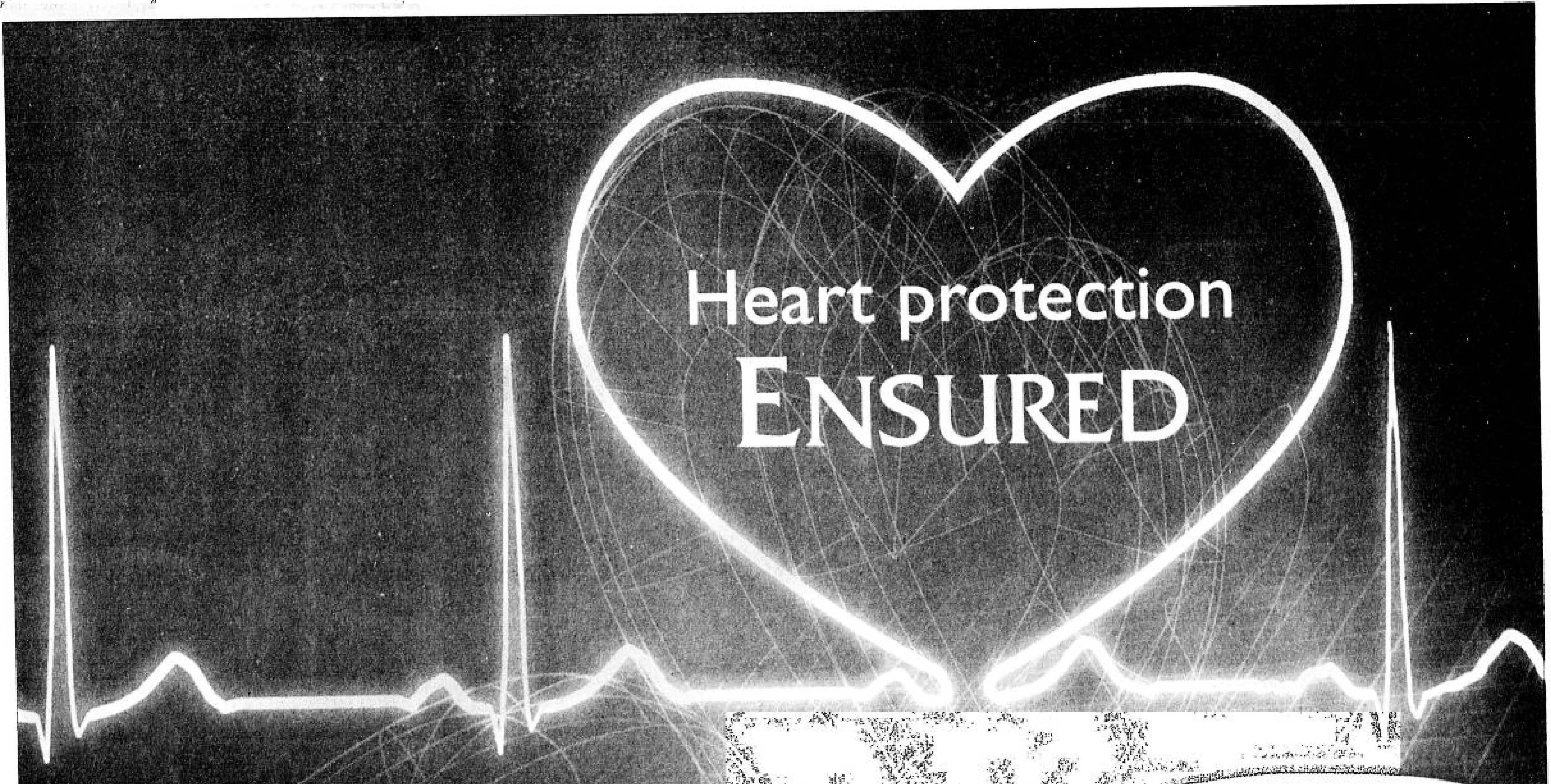

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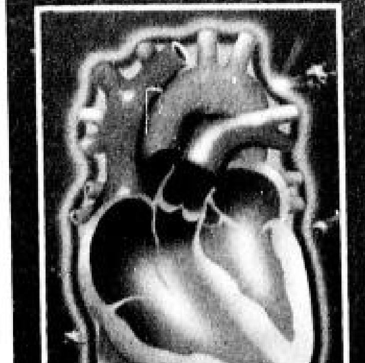

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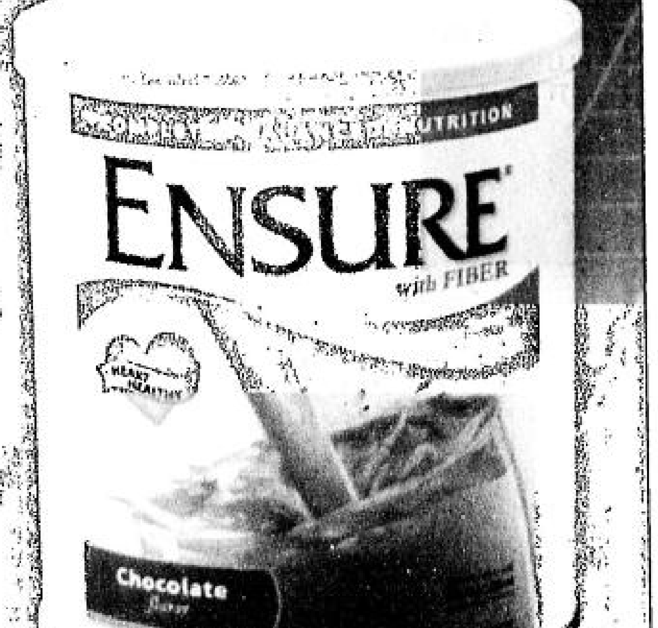

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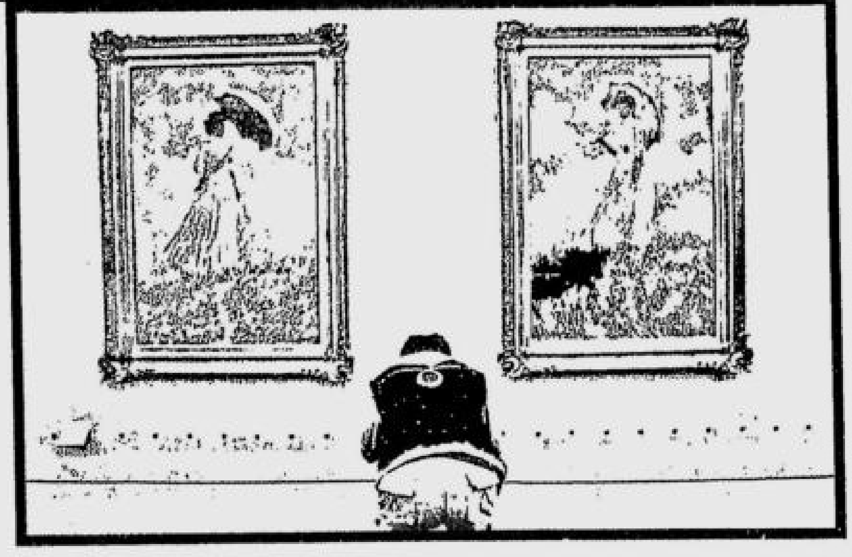
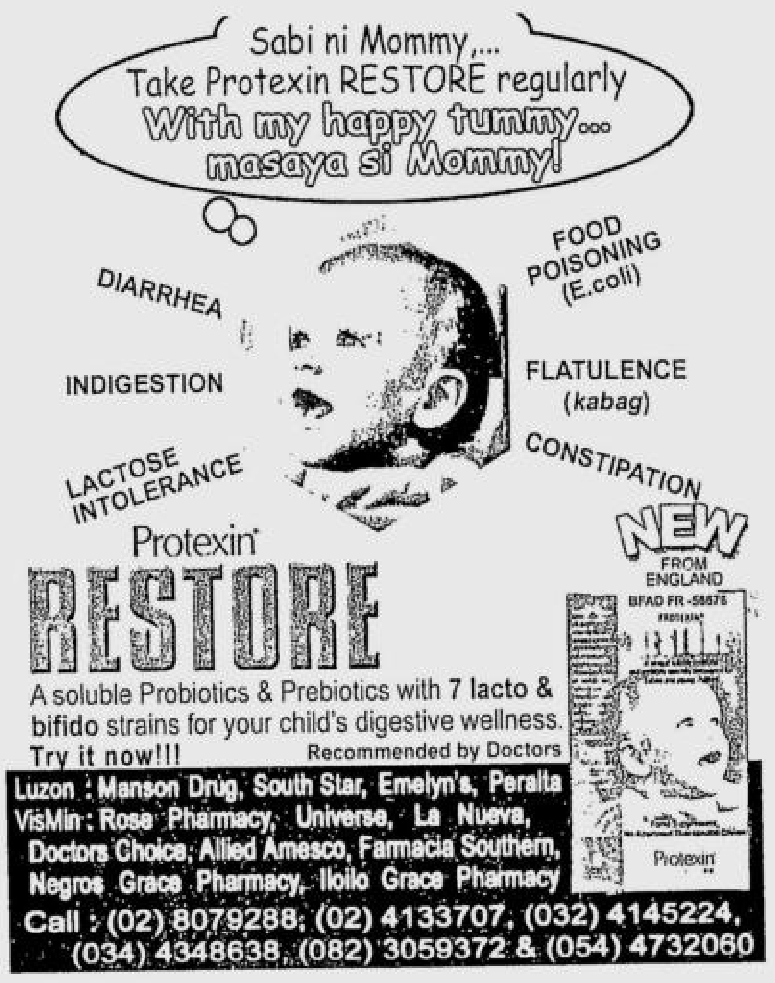
*Email the author at pepe@iampepe.com.*

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# Stoned, but not totally insane

**24/7**

Paolo R. Reyes
Janine Cuenca-Dario

WHEN A 35-YEAR-OLD DJ INVITES an aging 66-year-old crooner to dabble into dance music, some naysayers might regard this musical experiment as a recipe for disaster.

But Nick Bracegirdle, the brainchild behind powerhouse dance outfit Chicane, is no fool. And a Grammy-winning musical giant by the name of Sir Tom Jones (whose mighty repertoire stretches from the 1965 smash, "It's Not Unusual," to the chart-topping "Sex Bomb" in 1999) wasn't knighted by the Queen for nothing.

After taking some time off to write and regroup, Chicane—who last made headlines with the hit single "Love on the Run"—returns to reclaim his coveted place in the august halls of clublandia. That is, with the help of the legendary, charismatic crooner.

Over the past year, the two heavyweights have teamed up to produce a devastatingly contagious dance track, "Stoned in Love feat. Tom Jones," which fuses Jones' vintage vocals with Bracegirdle's smoothly-produced form of electronica. Since its worldwide release last April 24, the single has been steadily climbing the global club charts; resting, as of late, at the sweet No. 7 spot.

On Saturday, May 27, Chicane commandeers the decks of the World Trade Center to perform the killer track for his die-hard Filipino fans. Though Sir Tom won't be around to belt out the single's lung-busting chorus, you can count on Bracegirdle to pull out all the stops for another scintillating live show. For tickets, call 723-8673 or 726-2523.

CHICANE live in Manila soon

## Other Super! 24/7 events:

### May 20, Saturday

Sugar Free, Twisted Halo, Cambio, and Happy Meals at Saguijo; 20something Saturdays at Mezze; Hale at Centerstage, SM Megamall Cinema 9; Cynthia Alexander at Conspiracy; Freshly Squeezed at Citrus; Quench w/ DJs Chip dela Calzada & Mac Cunanan at Quisine; Dance Deluxe w/ DJ Martin Pulgar at Embassy Club; Campusition Night at Mag:net Café ; Pump Saturdays at Jill's; DJ Badboy Jeff at Temple; Soundsgood DJs at Embassy Cuisine; Bam del Valle at Government; DJs Scratchmark & Bliss at Prince of Jaipur; Massive Saturdays at Bed; Wiseguys at Suburbia Malate

### May 21, Sunday

Rivermaya at Expo Filipino; Ingrid Santamaria & the Adventist Chamber at Francisco Santiago Hall; Regards Croisés: Juan Caguicla photo exhibit at Alliance Francaise; Tony Twigg: Perforations at Galleria Duemila; Champagne Lunch at Paseo Uno at Mandarin Oriental

### May 22, Monday

Bridge at 70s Bistro; Ethan band at Temple; I Don't Like Mondays! w/ DJ Ro at Gweilos Makati; Teresa Avila at The Tivoli; Dawn & Jessie at Merk's; Wine Buffet at The Lounge; Eastwind Jazz Trio at Captain's Bar; Follies de Mwah at Club Mwah

### May 23, Tuesday

Jammin' Reggae w/ Brownman Revival at Conspiracy; Wahijuara at 70s Bistro; Severo, The Late Isabel, and Jeepney Joy Ride at Saguijo; Panic w/ DJs Alessandra Tinio & Chi Castañeda, The Sleepyheads, Irie-I, Day One Movement, & Dead Pop Stars at Zen; Salsa Night w/ Salsa Filipinas at Mezze; The Bloomfields at Dish; Kickback Tuesdays at Manila DJ Club; Guarana at Café Havana Greenbelt; Acoustic Night at Temple; Spirit of '67 at Captain's Bar

### May 24, Wednesday

Up Dharma Down at 70s Bistro; Weekend Wednesdays w/ DJ Boyet Almazan at Strumm's; Discotech w/ DJ Papi Santos at Mezze; DJs Karl Ty & Cao Ocampo at Embassy Cuisine; Funksouljah at Manila DJ Club; Mayonnaise at Saguijo; DJs Mars Miranda & Johnyverse at Embassy Club; Willy Wanka's Music Factory w/ Joffy Cruz at Gweilos Makati; DJ Crash at Temple; Classic Wednesdays w/ DJ Brit at Government; Acoustic Night at 6Underground; Way Back Wednesdays at Bed; Jazz Night at Mag:Net Café Katipunan; Double Happiness at Prince of Jaipur; Julia Duncan at Merk's; Noel Cabangon at Conspiracy; Wiseguys at Bagaberde Pasig

### May 25, Thursday

Nemanja Radulovic Concert at Philamlife Theater; Brownman Revival at 70s Bistro; LYC Gimme Shelter: A Benefit Show for Street Children at Conspiracy; BBC's HotButteredSoul w/ DJ Mike Constantino at Sake Lab; GottaHaveHouse! w/ DJs Mark Jentes & Wendell Garcia at Capone's; SPIT at Mag:net Café Katipunan; Fluxxe: Whatever Thursdays at Manila DJ Club; Latina Thursday at Prince of Jaipur; Supahstar DJ Thursdaze at Bed; DJ Badboy Jeff at Temple; Acoustic Jive at Merk's

### May 26, Friday

Saguijo's 2nd Year Anniversary Part 1 feat. Ciudad, Pedicab, Chicosci, Soapdish, Blast Ople, Boldstar, Sleepyheads, Monkey Spank, The Bitter Pill, If Disco Is A Crime, Itchy Worms, Sugar Free, Imago, and Angulo at Saguijo; Mojofly at Dish

We're Still Hot! The New Menopause Musical at Teatrino Promenade, Greenhills; Joey Ayala at Conspiracy; Decadance w/ Boyet Almazan at Jill's; DJ Benjo Marquez at Mezze; Fashion Fridays w/ DJs Karl Ty & GP Reyes at Citrus; DJ Owens Sun at Embassy Club; HouseBeats at Mati; MyHOUSE at M Café; Soul Shine w/ DJ Marie Garcia at Embassy Cuisine; DJ Brit at Government; Jive Fridays at Temple; The Jerks at 70s Bistro; Gogo Fridays at Bed; DJs Scratchmark & Shorty at Prince of Jaipur; Wiseguys at Virgin Café

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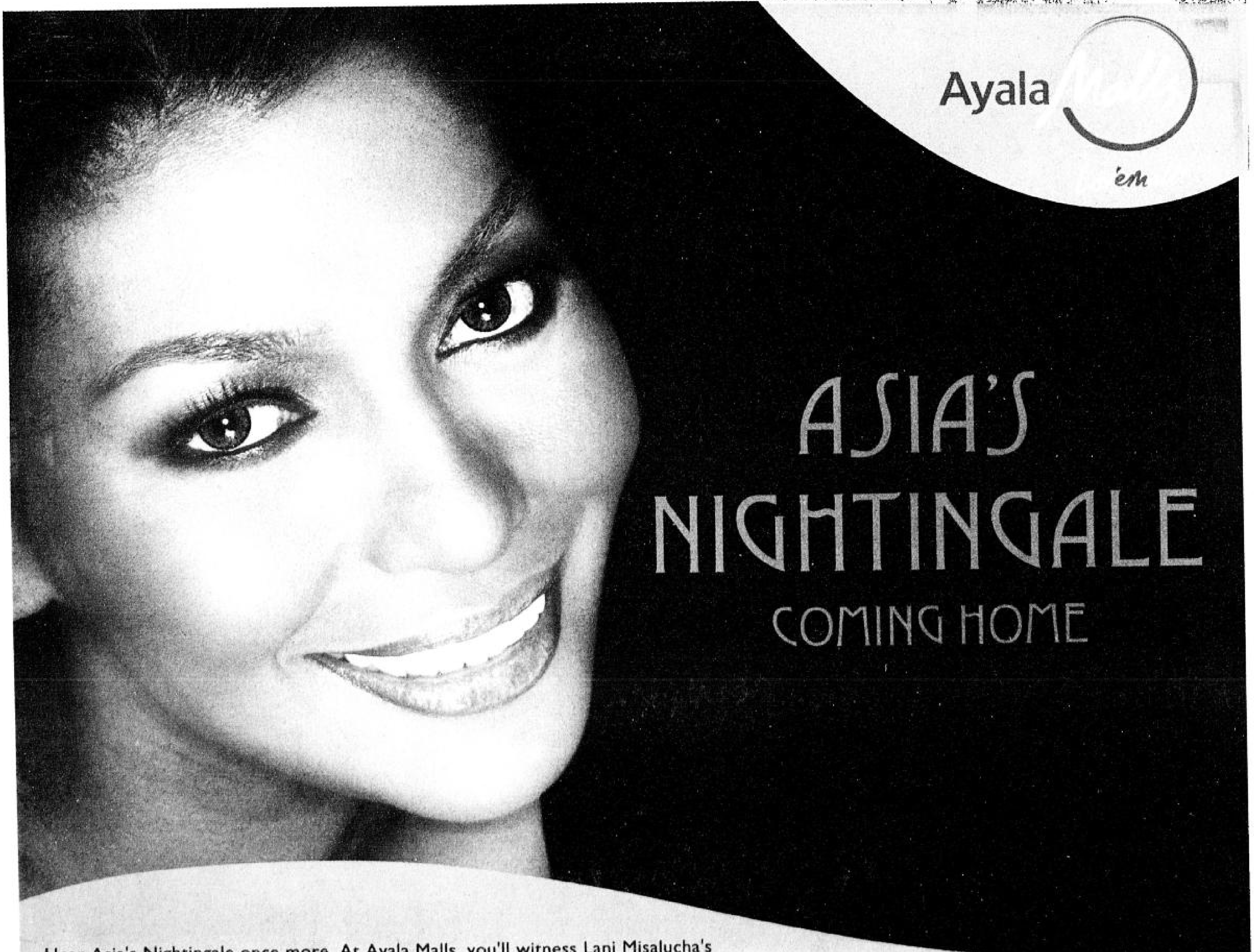

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**THE NEW MISS.** Bianca Valerio being awarded Miss Mouton Cadet by last year's winner, Mariz Dimayuga

**TRILLO TRIO.** Tita, Angela and Annie Trillo know their wine well.

### MISS MOUTON CADET '06

# Cannes you dig this?

*Tim Yap*

LAST WEDNESDAY WAS the world premiere of "Da Vinci Code" at the opening of the most prestigious cinematographic festival in the world, the Cannes Film Festival.

As of this writing, **Audrey Tautou, Zhang Ziyi, Eva Herzigova, Andie MacDowell** and more movie stars would have sashayed down the red carpet, flaunting their Chopard jewelry and Chanel gowns.

Next week, a Filipina joins these celebrities as she marches down the red carpet, rubbing elbows with the rich, the famous and the beautiful. Last year, **Claudine Barretto** and **Claudine Trillo-Webb** proudly paraded our country's colors in **Rajo Laurel**. Whose turn is it this year?

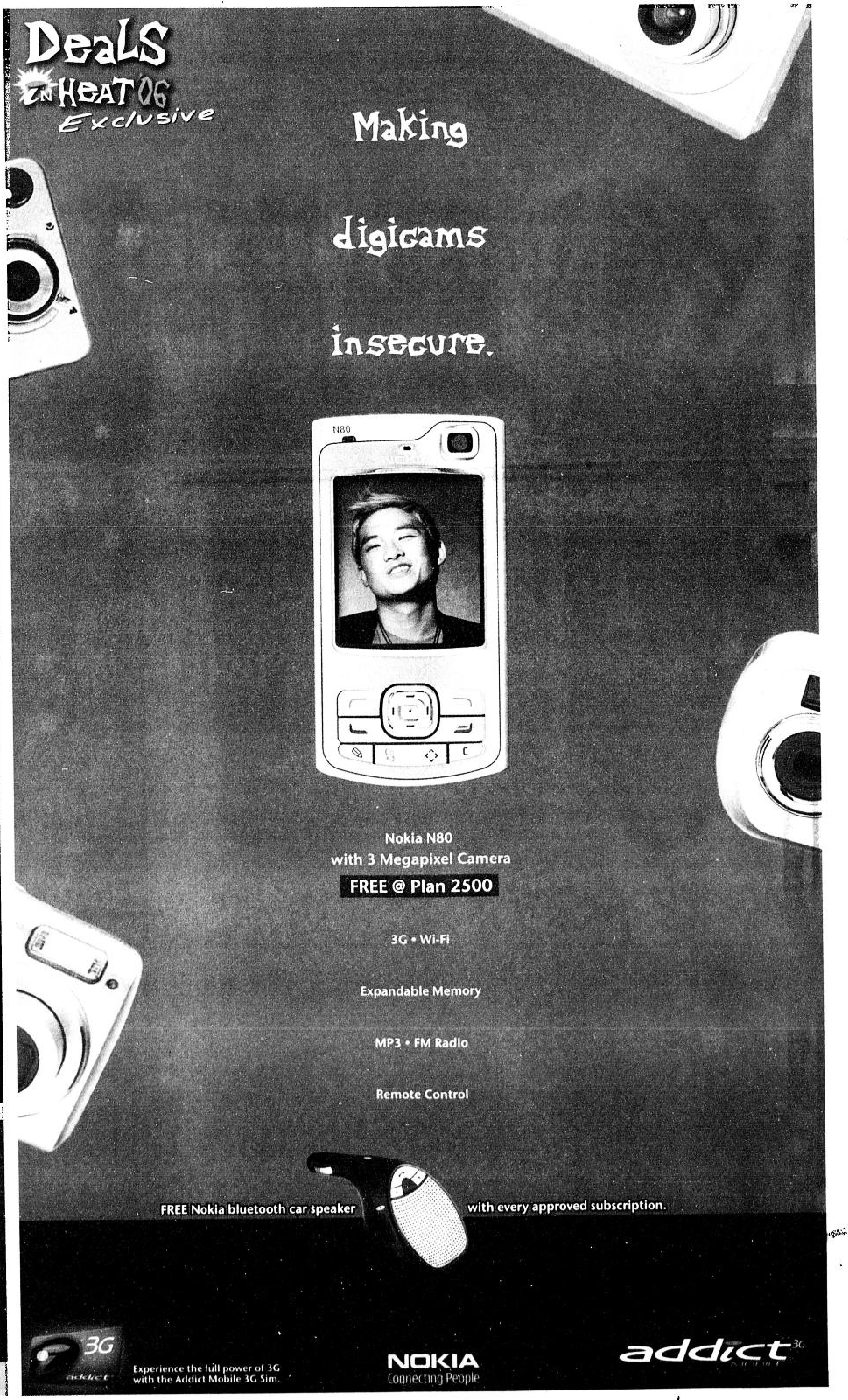
"I am a single mom, and people told me that my life would end as soon as I got pregnant. My life did end, but it became the start of a new one," candidate No. 12 proudly declared as the audience roared with applause at the outspoken but confident lass in front of them.

CANNES/ D2

**SUPER SOMMELIER.** Red's resident pouring Mouton Cadet Reserve Medoc Rouge

**THE BARON AND THE BARONESS.** Thierry de Tourniel and Gionna Cabrera

**RED CARPET RAVERS.** Joey Mead and Claudine Trillo-Webb



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**MEZZE'S MARIE.** Bobong Velez and Denise Albert

**CHOOSING MISS MOUTON.** Cory Quirino at Red

**LUKE** Moron of Marc Jacobs and Frances Lim of Silk Cocoon

**HOTEL DE LUXE.** Peter Jentes of Schwarzwalder with Tita Trillo

**FRESH PRINCE** of Jaipur, Max Tarleja

**A FORMER** Miss Mouton Cadet herself, Jenny Santi

**MAN OF DISTINCTION.** Gigi Montinola

**LIFESTYLE** setter Juana Manahan and French Ambassador Gerard Chesnel

**WATCH** out for their new Pinoy restaurant. Chef Rolando Laudico with wife Jackie

**ILLUSTRADOS.** Thierry de Tourniel and Boni Pimentel

**MEGA ROYALTY.** Lorraine Belmonte and illy King discuss their ices.

# Cannes you dig this?

From page D1

**Bianca Valerio** was recently named Miss Mouton Cadet 2006 at a sit down dinner pageant at Red at the Makati Shangri-la. It was attended by this town's top bar and restaurant owners and lovers of fine wine. **Christopher Romine**, the Shang's Chef de Cuisine, prepared a delightful degustation that accompanied the bodacious Baron Philippe de Rothschild wines that overflowed that night.

Titania's **Tita Trillo**, the Philippine's First Lady of wine, made sure everyone was in high spirits, including guest of honor **Thierry de Tourniel**, general manager of Baron Philippe de Rothschild Asia Pacific. Francophiles gathered around the lovely ladies that represented various Mouton Cadet pouring establishments. This lucky lady after all, will walk down the Cannes red carpet.

I spoke to some of the judges, including **David Ennes** of L'Oreal (the make-up sponsor of the festival) and Mega's **Lorraine Belmonte** and they told me that this was no ordinary pageant—they were looking for personality more than beauty. "These days, all women can look beautiful, but what will really set them apart is personality," David, the beauty expert, reminded me.

**FRENCH BOUNTY.** Fresh beauty Valerie Barriou

True enough, most girls gave beauty pageant cliches a run for their money. Bianca was the most spontaneous and real. "I was just informed of this a day ago, but as with anything I do, I give it my best shot," said the model slash host slash young mom to **Natassia** as she took the audience for a spin with her candid humor and effortless poise. **Denise Albert**, proud that this particular pageant did not have a "height requirement," was first runner-up. Mezze's **Bobong Velez** was so proud of his bar's baby.

The clincher was when Bianca was asked by hosts **Dominic Uy** and **Gionna Cabrera**, "If you were to become a wine, what wine would you be?" "Mouton Cadet, of course. Just like the qualities that embody a woman, it is strong and full bodied and yet has a mild and lingering effect that keeps you wanting more. Doesn't that personify me?" Even without knowing a sentence in French, that's how she got the judges nod.

**THEY WILL WALK THE R[illegible]RPET FOR THE CANNES FILMFEST.** Miss Mou[illegible] winner Bianca Valeri

SUPER! SELECTION

## These screens are made for jumping off of

THE SM MALL OF ASIA OPENS ON THE 21st, and man, is it huge. It is actually the largest mall in Asia. Just a random tidbit. The mall houses one of the largest movie screens in the world. Another random tidbit.

Anyway, as the mall opens tomorrow, so will the Philippines' first IMAX theater—and I tell you all, it is a different experience. Imagine eight stories of the silver screen. It can be scary. I mean, what if Juday starts making IMAX movies? Or Ai Ai de las Alas? But I'm off track.

Imagine a 12,000 watt, multi-channel, digital surround sound system? Or imagine 3D movies?

Or wait. You won't have to imagine long. Aside from it opening tomorrow, prices are going to be affordable. "P150 for documentaries," we're told. The reason for this is a partnership between SM, San Miguel and Coca-Cola.

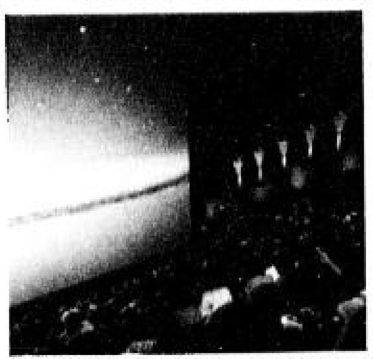
I, and over 500 other people were ushered into the 586-seater theater on Tuesday. We were shown two IMAX-size movies (IMAX has film ten times bigger than the conventional 33mm). One was a 3D movie called "Nascar 3D," for which we had to wear the special polarized glasses they handed out. The other was a 2D movie called, "Everest," which was especially meaningful 'cause we had the womens' Everest team with us, and because the first Filipino made it on Everest just two days after.

Both films will premiere when the theater opens tomorrow.

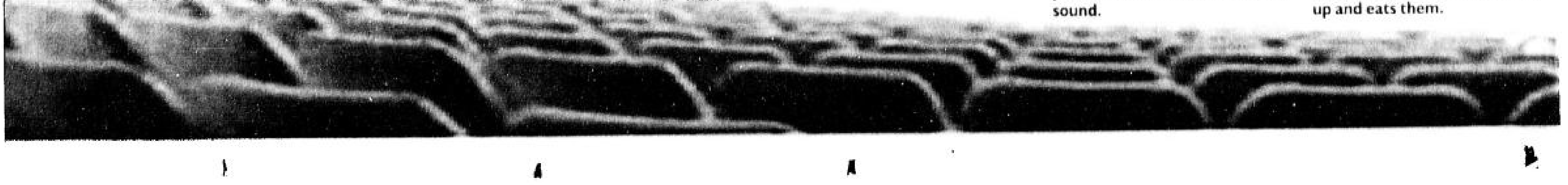
IMAX is the movie experience. You haveta see it, and, in the future maybe, bungee off it. Fun.

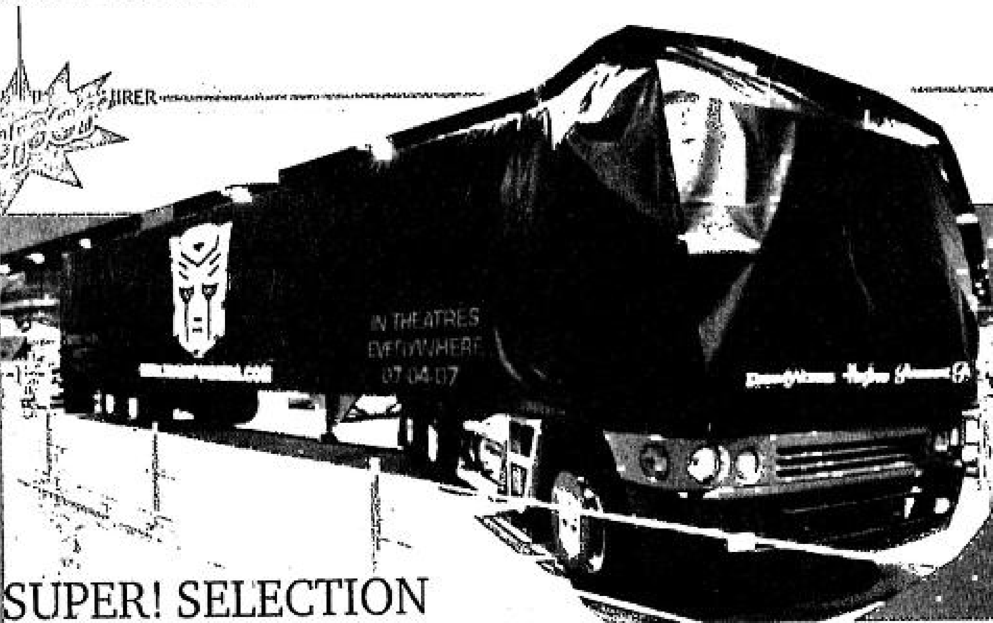
*Pepe Diokno*

**A FACE** of that whole building is the size of the **IMAX** screen. PEPE DIOKNO


**NO MATTER** where you sit in this theater, sound is goood. Thank you 12,000 watt digital surround sound.

**OBVIOUSLY,** the kids are having fun. But that's until the scene where the giant 3D Trex comes up and eats them.





**With 400-plus days to go before it drops in theaters, the live-action Transformers movie is already giving fans serious geekgasms**

SUPER! SELECTION

# Optimus Prime time!

By Gino de la Paz

FOR THOSE BORN IN THE 80s, start dusting off those toys because the live-action Transformers movie has been set to open on 07-04-07! I know, it's more than a year away but don't the words "live," "action," "Transformers," and "movie" mean anything to you? Huh?

Well, they sorta do for me. See, I was about 4 when my family got me my first two Transformers at Toys "R" Us. An uncle had to teach me how to play with them, since I really had no clue that it wasn't food or that you shouldn't throw it in the pool. (The oldies, meanwhile, thought the Transformers were gadgets that converted 110V to 220V. That's why they're oldies.)

Back then, the concept of robots in disguise, of human-like machines turning into badass trucks, planes, and guns was way fresh and edgy. Okay, there was a stupid one that turned into a boombox—Soundblaster—that had a cassette tape that turned into a pterodactyl. Or a parakeet. I'm not quite sure. All I know is that I had the best and lamest Autobots, Optimus Prime and Bumblebee, to jumpstart my collection.

## Male Chick Flick

It was only in the 90s when I found out that there was actually a full-length Transformers cartoon movie, inventively called "The Transformers: The Movie." (Ooh, yeah.) Recognized by GQ as one of the "Top 25 Male Chick Flicks of All Time," this animated flick from '86 dealt with dude-specific issues like maturity, the death of buddies, and Decepticons! (I love saying that—Decepticons!)

I don't remember much from it so I guess I better brush up on my Transformers trivia before the live-action version comes out on the 4th of July next year. That brings me back nicely to my point: Yes, it's 400-plus days away, which means I have 400-plus days till full geekgasm and 400-plus days to hope it won't suck.

Directed by Michael Bay, the guy behind "The Island" and "Armageddon" (two movies I've never seen, by the way), and produced by Steven Spielberg, this adaptation promises to let fans "experience Transformers in a way that is incredibly powerful."

## What humans?

However, since news on the project has so far been limited to stuff about casting the human characters, said fans are anxious. (Jon Voight? Michael Clarke Duncan? Josh Duhamel? Bernie Mac? Bernie Mac?!) The reason is simple: No one cares about the human characters! The Transformers is all about a bunch of brawling robots outrageously kicking ass, not Bernie effing Mac!

Anyway, before my faith fades faster than a Catholic altar boy's, I take solace in the fact that the other building blocks of my childhood have been translated into film with little or no trace of screwage. "Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles: The Movie" was essentially decent, so was "Mighty Morphin' Power Rangers: The Movie." I'm not expecting tons, but here's hoping.

Nonetheless, it's up to the peeps at DreamWorks Pictures, Hasbro Inc., and Paramount Pictures to keep the franchise cool for the sake of the new generation. That said, how about a live-action Care Bears movie?

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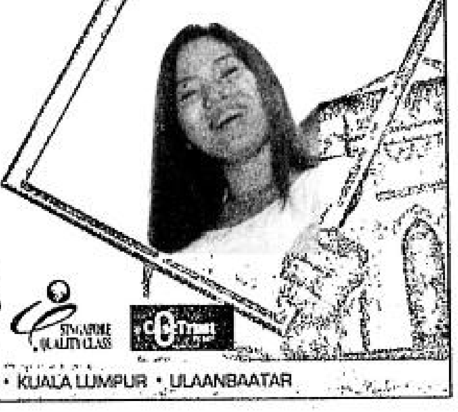

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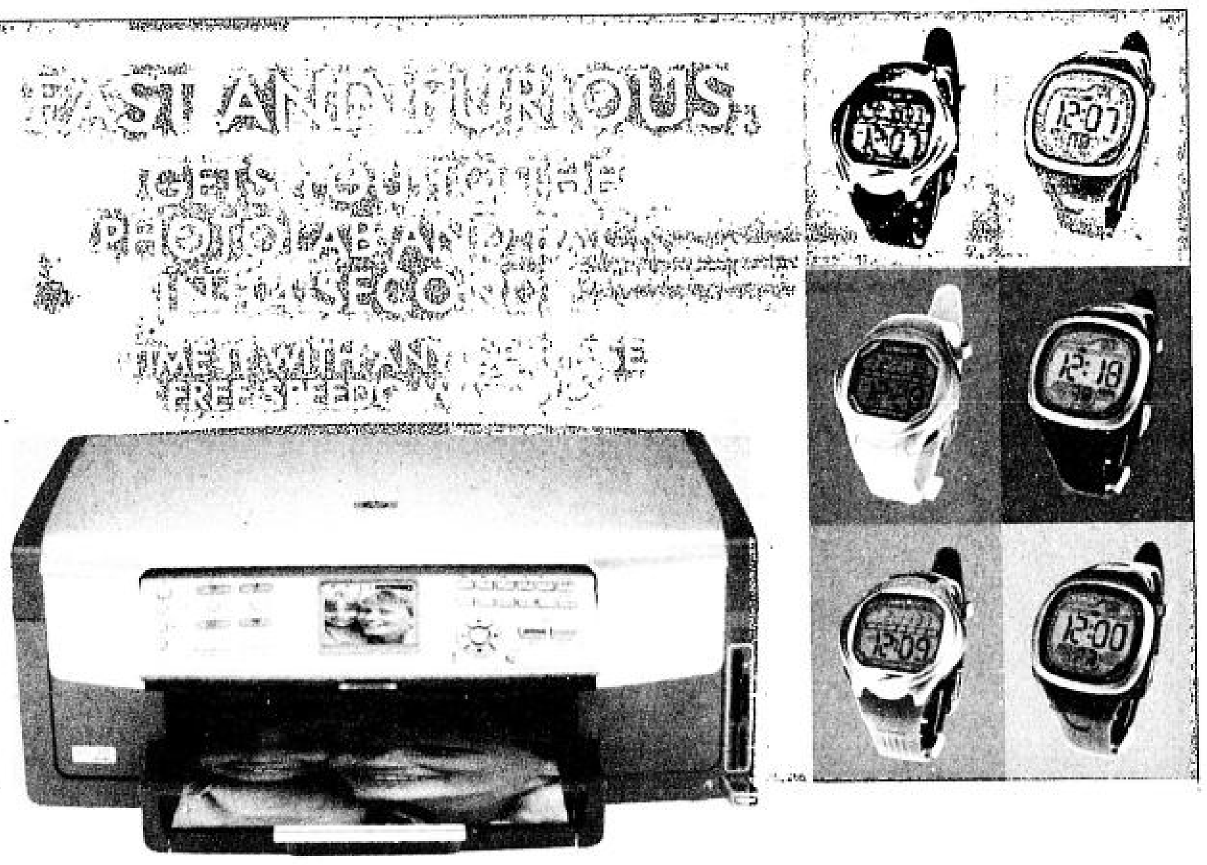

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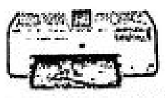

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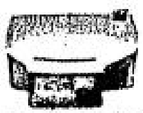

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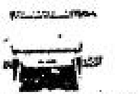

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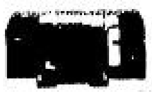

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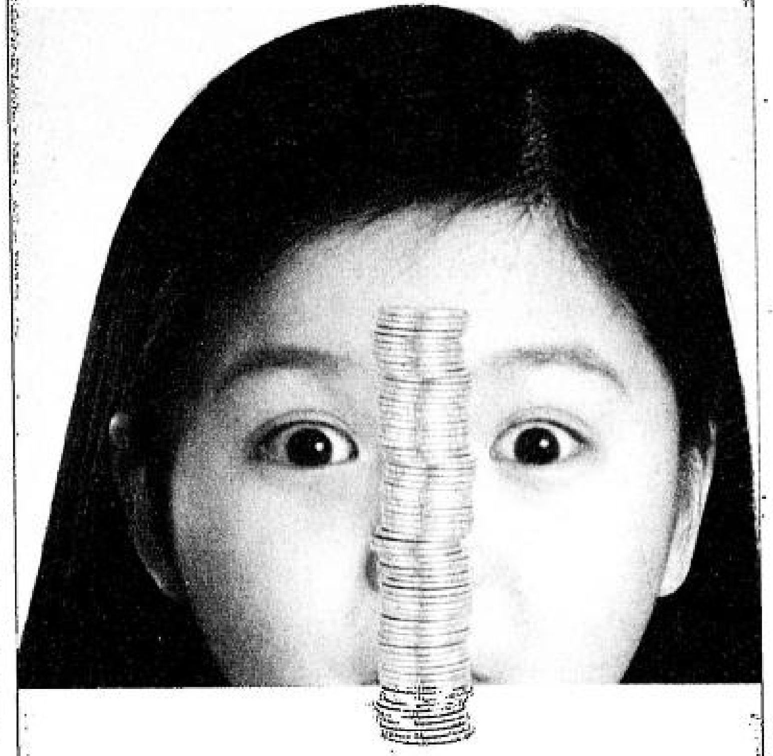

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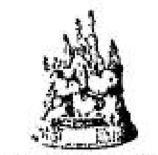

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# Hip-hop till you can't stop

By David Milan

MAINSTREAM PHILIPPINE music industry may seem to lack proper hip-hop representation. But, like everything done underground, a flurry of independent hip-hop artists have been building and establishing their marks both locally and abroad. One of the camps making grooves is Turbulence Productions, a local independent label and winner of this year's Independent Artist of the Year for the 2nd Annual Hip-Hop Awards. Headmastered by producer and founder, Bong "B-Roc" Andres, along with BeatBox MC, Psylent and rapper/lyricist Nimbus Nine, Turbulence recently headlined a show in Taiwan alongside Loon, of Diddy's (that's Puff Daddy if you were born twenty years ago) Bad Boy records, and hip-hop superstar, Jin The MC.

**SUSHI RAP.** Nimbus Nine and Jin the MC

"*May pag-asa tayong mga Pilipino!* Who would have ever thought that young artists like us would be rocking concerts out of the country and headlining with known international acts?" said Nimbus Nine. "It's been such a blessing and it gives us, as Filipino artists, a ray of hope that we're more than capable of competing internationally and booking our own gigs without any major label's help. *Kung kaya namin, kaya niyo rin.*" These hip-hop heads have no plans of stopping. Turbulence Productions came up with a seven-week long hip-hop event called "The Community," which is a weekly event, every Wednesday at Club Halo, Mile Long compound, Amorsolo St. Makati City.

**PINOY BAD BOYS.** Nimbus Nine with P. Diddy posse Loon

The event began last April 19 and will end on May 31. "The Community" will also spawn a DVD and CD, with the participation of local greats such as Francis M, Masta Plann, Artstrong, Mike Swift, DJ Arbiewon and more.

*For more information log on to www.turbulenceproductions.net*

**STONE PAPER AND SCISSORS.** B-Roc and Marvelous

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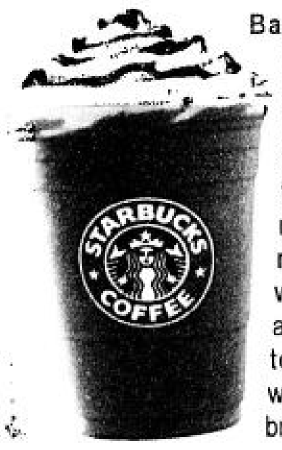

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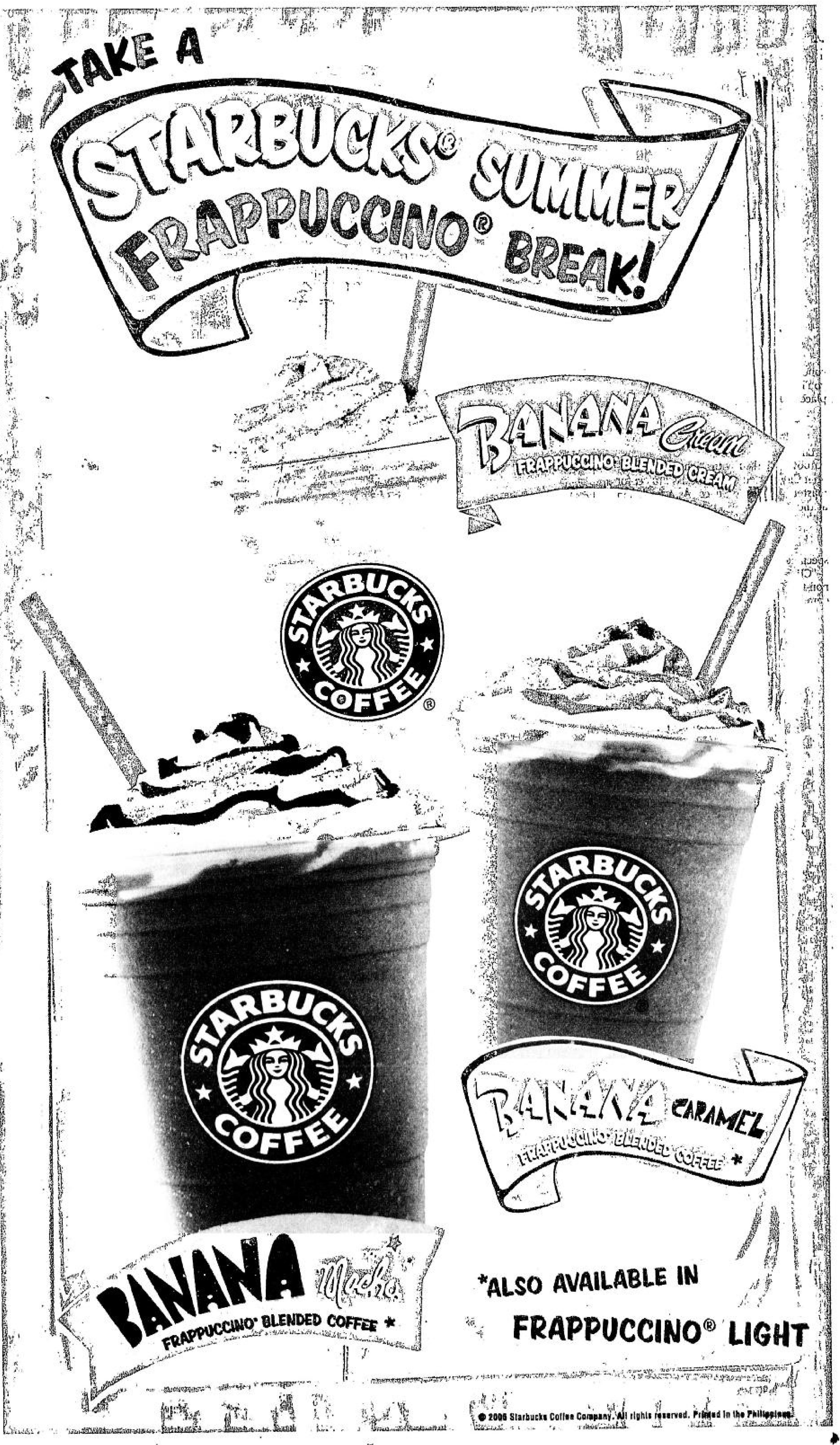

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PHOTOS BY RYAN LIM

# Temple of Boom!

## Aspiring mixmasters can now turn their beat-driven dreams into sonic reality at Manila's only DJ school, Spin City

AT 13, I WAS AT THE ground floor of my beat-driven dreams, moonlighting as the default DJ for my own birthday party. Of course, all that meant was fading Nirvana in (and fading C+C Music Factory out) using a beat-up DiscMan and a Kenwood stereo. But still, despite the woefully DIY conditions, I managed not to make everything sound like ear-splitting sludge.

*Age against the machine*

Gino de la Paz

A decade or so later, I'm finally moving up as far as those tween aspirations were concerned. In the 5th floor of a blink-and-you'll-miss-it building, I stumbled upon a place where bedroom DJs can become official turntablists: Spin City.

### Sonic boom

Like "Dexter's Laboratory" crossed with "Groove" crossed with "School of Rock," Spin City started out as a class project for mastermind Jessie Suaco. As a freshman at the Center for International Education (CIE), he needed to think of a business that was linked to a personal passion. In Jessie's case, it was definitely music. More specifically, mixing it.

"CIE is where college kids can learn in a non-traditional environment, where academic rigor is defined as starting and growing your own enterprise," explains CIE director Lex Ledesma. "At the beginning, Jessie used our RCBC Plaza campus as his school at night. But because he has been doing well, he was able to get his own place."

### Hogwarts for vinyl junkies

But just like blending beats, running a DJ school is "trickier than it seems," according to Jessie. This Hogwarts for vinyl junkies follows a detailed curriculum, something veteran DJ and Spin City instructor Mon Maramba came up with more than 10 years ago. "Another DJ and I thought of a step ladder process where the students build up the basic skills. The fundamentals are emphasized as these are the habits they'll be using all throughout their DJing careers."

Unlike, say, your run-of-the-mill university philosophy lectures, classes at Spin City are primarily designed not to pummel students with too much information. And the instruction is one-on-one. "The speed of progress is always adjusted to the rate of absorption and the students only move on to the next lesson if they have met certain requirements," continues Mon.

"For the basic course, students can pass if they can perform a simple 1-hour program using all the skills they learned while displaying some degree of creativity. It's a recital of sorts that we hold at the school itself. But soon we plan to hold this in public venues as the crowds have been increasing."

### On the decks

After DJ History 101, Mon went on to

TEMPLE/ E4

**TREBLE MAKER.** Mon Maramba came up with the step-by-step curriculum.

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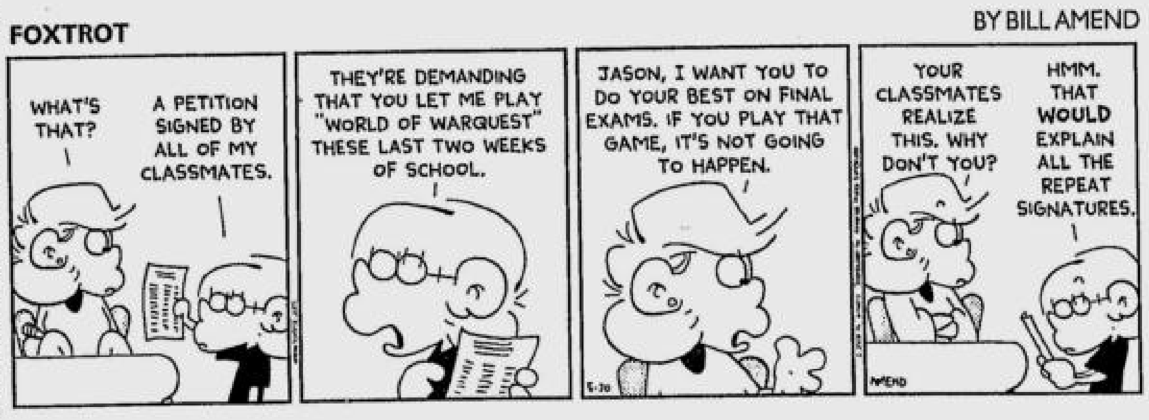
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 2681, Series of 2006.

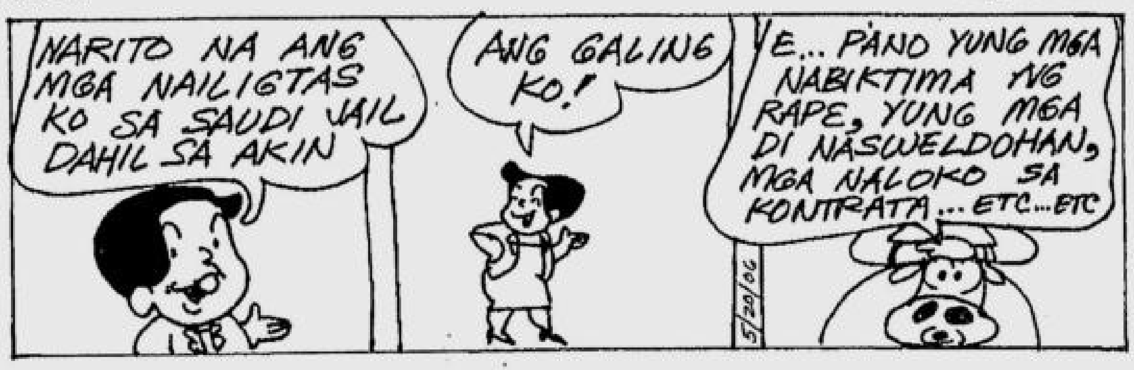
### FOXTROT

BY BILL AMEND


WHAT'S THAT?
A PETITION SIGNED BY ALL OF MY CLASSMATES.
THEY'RE DEMANDING THAT YOU LET ME PLAY "WORLD OF WARQUEST" THESE LAST TWO WEEKS OF SCHOOL.
JASON, I WANT YOU TO DO YOUR BEST ON FINAL EXAMS. IF YOU PLAY THAT GAME, IT'S NOT GOING TO HAPPEN.
YOUR CLASSMATES REALIZE THIS. WHY DON'T YOU?
HMM. THAT WOULD EXPLAIN ALL THE REPEAT SIGNATURES.
5-20
AMEND

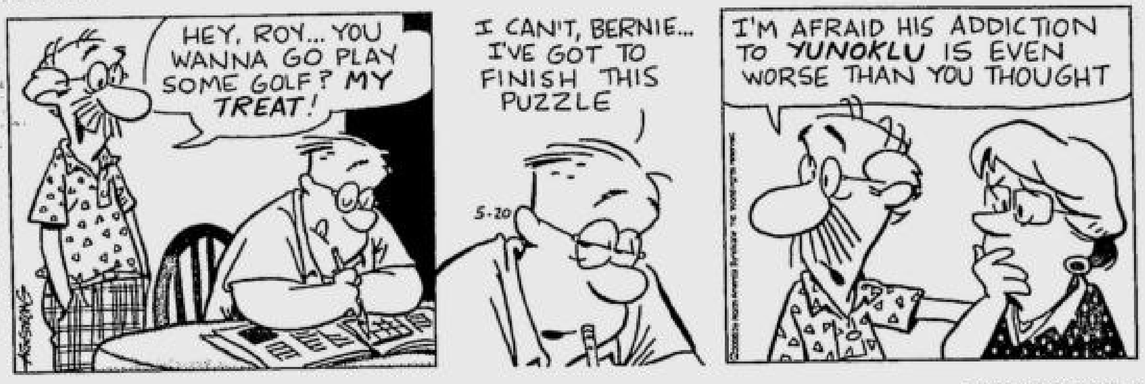
### A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


NARITO NA ANG MGA NAILIGTAS KO SA SAUDI JAIL DAHIL SA AKIN
ANG GALING KO!
E... PANO YUNG MGA NABIKTIMA NG RAPE, YUNG MGA DI NASWELDOHAN, MGA NALOKO SA KONTRATA... ETC...ETC
5/20/06

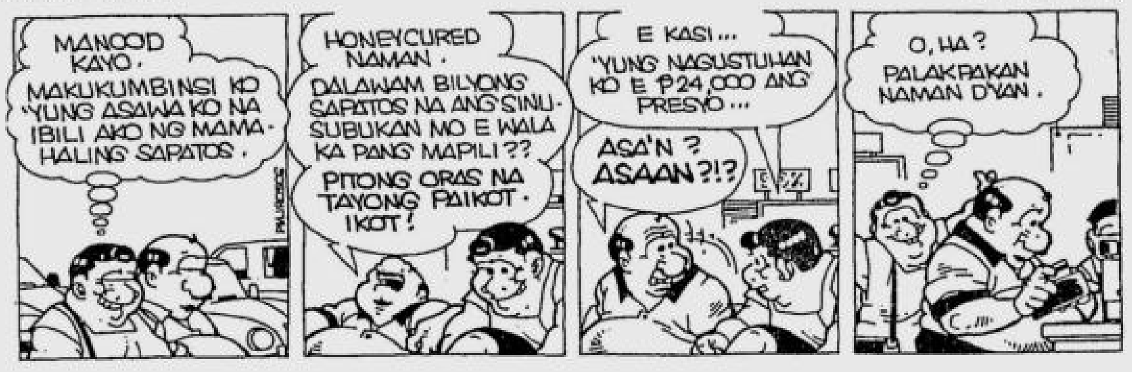
### MARVIN

BY TOM ARMSTRONG


HEY, ROY... YOU WANNA GO PLAY SOME GOLF? MY TREAT!
I CAN'T, BERNIE... I'VE GOT TO FINISH THIS PUZZLE
5-20
I'M AFRAID HIS ADDICTION TO YUNOKLU IS EVEN WORSE THAN YOU THOUGHT

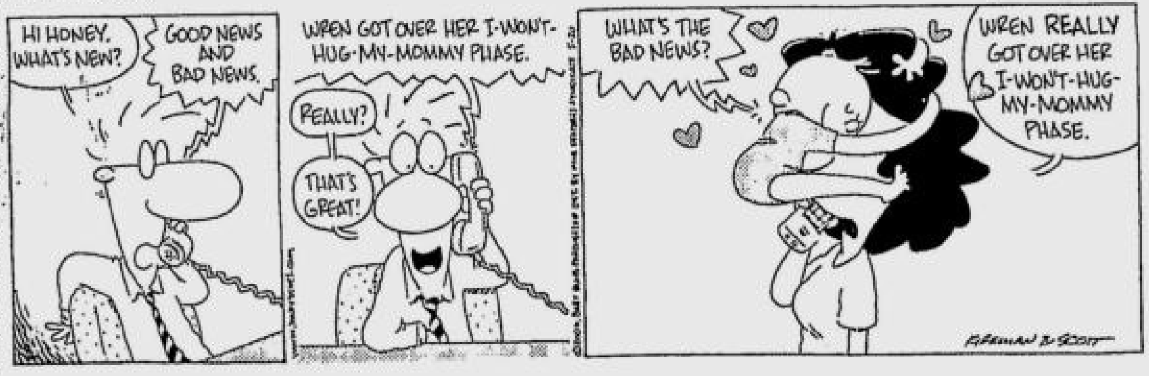
### PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


MANOOD KAYO.
MAKUKUMBINSI KO 'YUNG ASAWA KO NA IBILI AKO NG MAMAHALING SAPATOS.
HONEYCURED NAMAN.
DALAWAM BILYONG SAPATOS NA ANG SINUSUBUKAN MO E WALA KA PANG MAPILI??
PITONG ORAS NA TAYONG PAIKOT-IKOT!
E KASI...
'YUNG NAGUSTUHAN KO E ₱24,000 ANG PRESYO...
ASA'N ? ASAAN?!?
O, HA?
PALAKPAKAN NAMAN D'YAN.

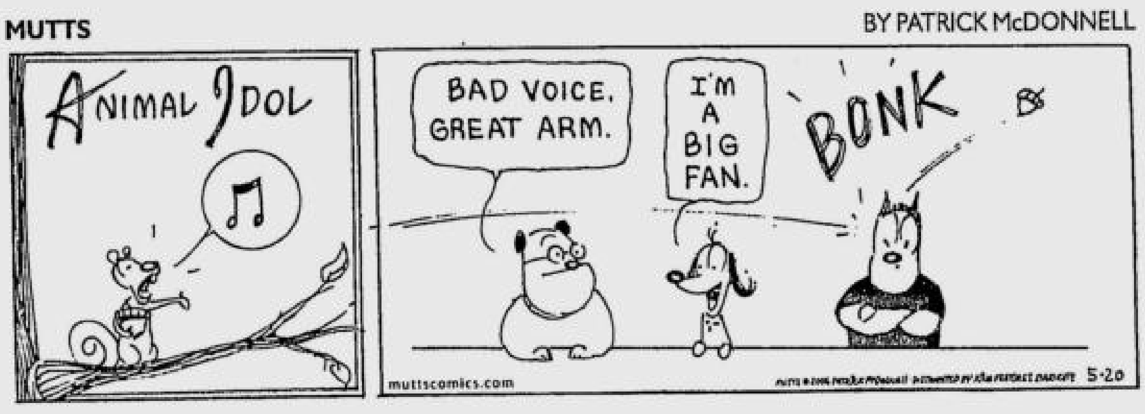
### BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


HI HONEY. WHAT'S NEW?
GOOD NEWS AND BAD NEWS.
WREN GOT OVER HER I-WON'T-HUG-MY-MOMMY PHASE.
REALLY?
THAT'S GREAT!
WHAT'S THE BAD NEWS?
WREN REALLY GOT OVER HER I-WON'T-HUG-MY-MOMMY PHASE.
KIRKMAN & SCOTT

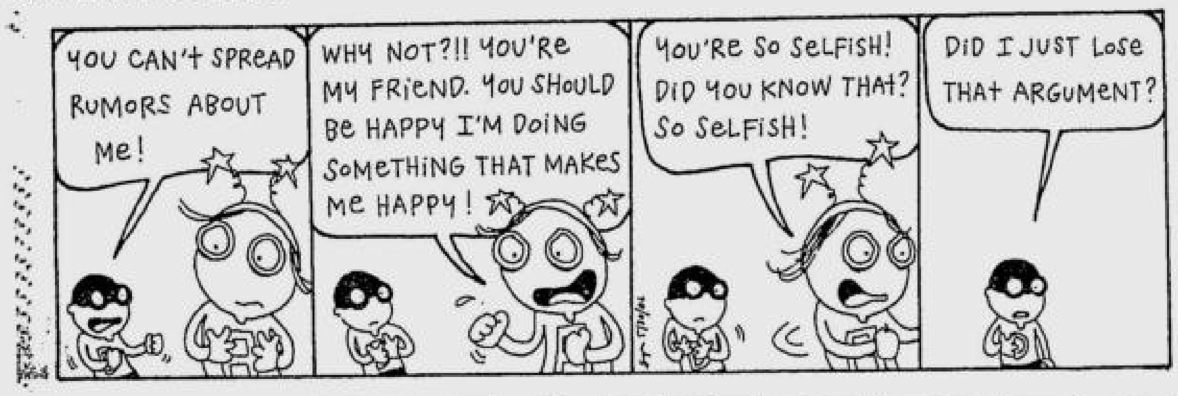
### MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


ANIMAL IDOL
♫
BAD VOICE. GREAT ARM.
I'M A BIG FAN.
BONK
muttscomics.com
5-20

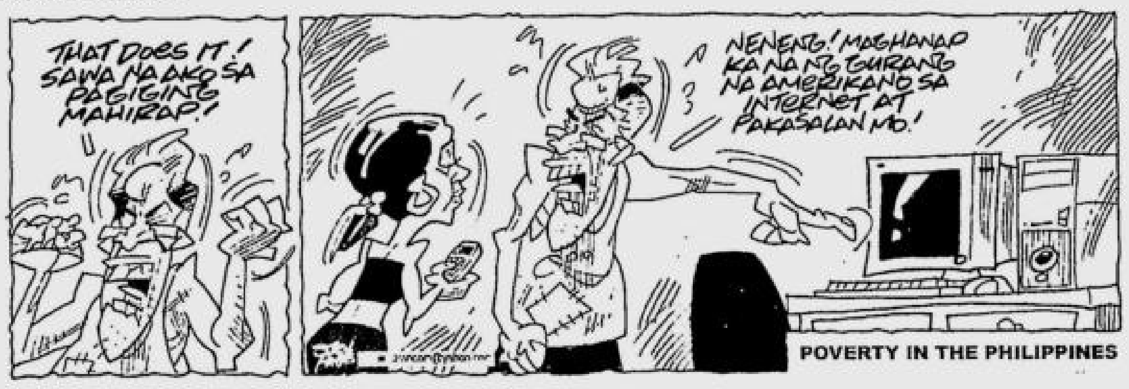
### ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


YOU CAN'T SPREAD RUMORS ABOUT ME!
WHY NOT?!! YOU'RE MY FRIEND. YOU SHOULD BE HAPPY I'M DOING SOMETHING THAT MAKES ME HAPPY!
YOU'RE SO SELFISH! DID YOU KNOW THAT? SO SELFISH!
DID I JUST LOSE THAT ARGUMENT?

### DIVINE COMEDY

BY STEVEN PABALINAS


THAT DOES IT! SAWA NA AKO SA PAGIGING MAHIRAP!
NENENG! MAGHANAP KA NA NG GURANG NA AMERIKANO SA INTERNET AT PAKASALAN MO!
POVERTY IN THE PHILIPPINES

# HOROSCOPE

### BY FRANCIS DRAKE

**YOU BORN TODAY:** You're intelligent, articulate and very skillful at expressing yourself. You have an investigative mind. You love to learn new things and travel to new places. Your enthusiasm keeps you forever young. You want constant stimulation. (No boredom, please!) The year ahead is unusually social and promises new love for many of you.

**Birthdate of:** Honore de Balzac, writer; Cher, actress/singer; Dave Thomas, comedian.

**ARIES (March 21 to April 19):** You definitely have an opportunity to help a friend today. Perhaps all this person needs is a sympathetic ear, or a shoulder to cry on. (Help if you can.)

**TAURUS (April 20 to May 20):** You feel selfless today. You're prepared to put your needs second to the needs of someone who is suffering. You really want to do something to help someone else. (How noble.)

**GEMINI (May 21 to June 20):** Artistic friends inspire you now. Perhaps they believe in your efforts. Perhaps what they do shows you what you really are capable of. This helps you believe in yourself.

**CANCER (June 21 to July 22):** Some of you might fall in love with your boss today. You have to look in the mirror and ask yourself if this is wise or really stupid. It's very dicey ground. Don't do anything you'll regret later.

**LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22):** Your appreciation of beauty is heightened today. Visit a park. Take a drive in the country. Go to beautiful stores, museums or galleries.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22):** Other people are willing to help you or give you things today. Keep your pockets open! Don't worry about strings attached. The universe wants to be generous to you.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22):** Conversations with friends, partners and even members of the general public are friendly and mutually sympathetic today. It's a lovely day to enjoy the company of others.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21):** People are cooperative at work today. Co-workers are pleasant. You might also get some good ideas about how to improve your health.

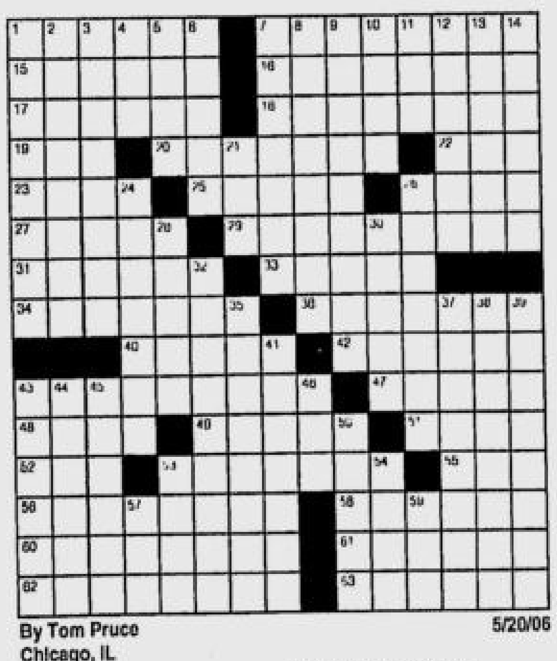
**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21):** Romance, flirtations and exciting, entertaining diversions make your heart beat a little faster today. Some people will meet their true love today. (Ooh la la.)

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19):** This is a wonderful day to redecorate where you live or do something to make your home more attractive. You might want to buy art or something beautiful for yourself or a family member.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18):** Contracts and negotiations go very well today. This is also a good day to form partnerships with others. People are reasonable and willing to listen.

**PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20):** Trust your hunches about new ways to earn money. You can boost your earnings today. Similarly, you might spend money on beautiful things. It sounds like easy come, easy go!

# DAILY CROSSWORD



By Tom Pruce
Chicago, IL

5/20/06

**ACROSS**
1 Washington port
7 Soaked up
15 Library patron
16 Final stroke
17 Verdi opera
18 Telephone pole adjunct
19 Cry out loud
20 Formula math
22 You, to Yves
23 Begged
25 Begin's peace partner
26 Financial hole
27 Buenos __, Arg.
29 Sweats
31 Actress Meryl
33 Film featuring "I Only Have Eyes for You"
34 Improve to meet a standard
36 Putting a band around
40 Best and Ferber
42 Norse goddesses of destiny
43 Group of business people
47 __ Fe, NM
48 Beer picks
49 Fundamental principle
51 Trail mix
52 "Le coq __" Rimsky-Korsakoff opera
53 Upfront monies
55 Soak up rays
56 Well-read
58 Diminutive size
60 Lifts
61 Canine coverage
62 Painful feeling
63 Fast-lane malady

**DOWN**
1 Infringement
2 Siliceous meteorite
3 Australian capital
4 Harem area
5 Suvari of "American Beauty"
6 Seed coats
7 Gave one's consent
8 Cartland and Walters
9 Team player
10 Pelion's twin peak
11 Civil libs.
12 Stiff hat
13 Don one's vestments
14 Relinquishes
21 Empty space
24 Becomes more profound
26 Washcloth
28 Plant starters
30 Mexican moola
32 Interrupt periodically
35 Artists' range of colors
37 Very fast
38 Fertilizers
39 Small anchors
41 Completely cloudy
43 Long-handled servers
44 Philippines port
45 Olympic discus legend
46 Arthur of "Maude"
50 Does data entry
53 Mediterranean port
54 E-mailed
57 Night before
59 Black goo

Friday's Puzzle Solved

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| E | V | E | R | ■ | A | S | K | S | ■ | R | E | A | D | Y |
| R | O | M | E | ■ | S | K | E | W | ■ | A | R | T | I | E |
| R | O | A | M | ■ | S | I | N | E | ■ | S | I | M | P | S |
| A | D | J | U | S | T | M | Y | L | U | C | K | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| N | O | O | S | E | ■ | S | A | L | S | A | ■ | G | A | P |
| D | O | R | ■ | D | U | O | ■ | S | A | L | I | E | R | I |
| ■ | ■ | ■ | J | A | F | F | A | ■ | ■ | ■ | R | A | I | N |
| A | U | M | A | N | O | F | F | E | W | W | O | R | D | S |
| L | E | E | K | ■ | ■ | ■ | T | A | P | I | N | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| F | R | E | E | B | I | L | ■ | S | A | D | ■ | U | V | I |
| A | N | T | ■ | A | S | Y | E | T | ■ | E | I | E | I | O |
| ■ | ■ | ■ | A | D | H | E | R | E | A | N | D | N | O | W |
| A | L | O | N | G | ■ | F | I | R | M | ■ | L | I | L | A |
| M | I | L | N | E | ■ | U | C | L | A | ■ | E | R | I | N |
| A | D | D | E | R | ■ | L | A | Y | S | ■ | S | O | N | S |

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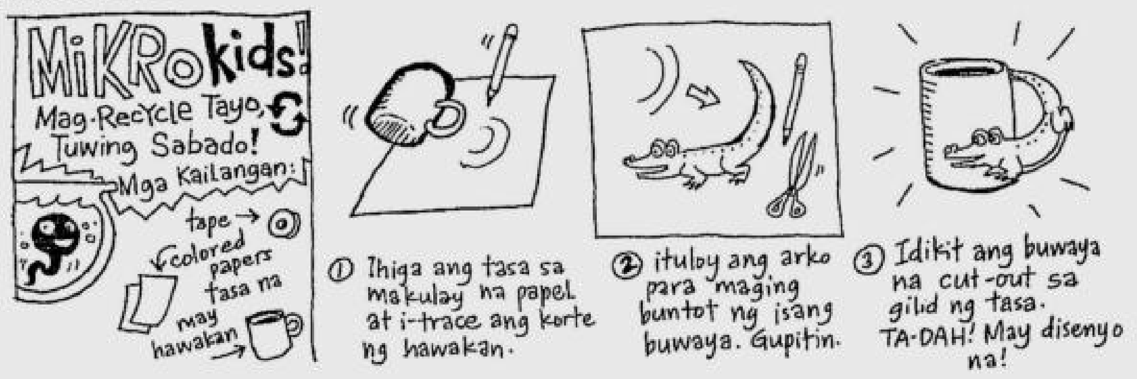
5/20/06

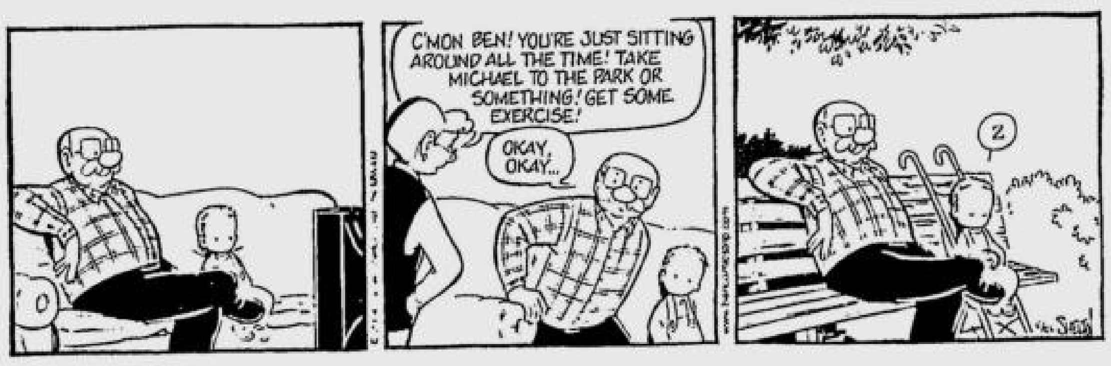
### MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


MiKRokids!
Mag-Recycle Tayo, Tuwing Sabado!
Mga Kailangan:
tape
colored papers
tasa na may hawakan
① Ihiga ang tasa sa makulay na papel at i-trace ang korte ng hawakan.
② ituloy ang arko para maging buntot ng isang buwaya. Gupitin.
③ Idikit ang buwaya na cut-out sa gilid ng tasa. TA-DAH! May disenyo na!

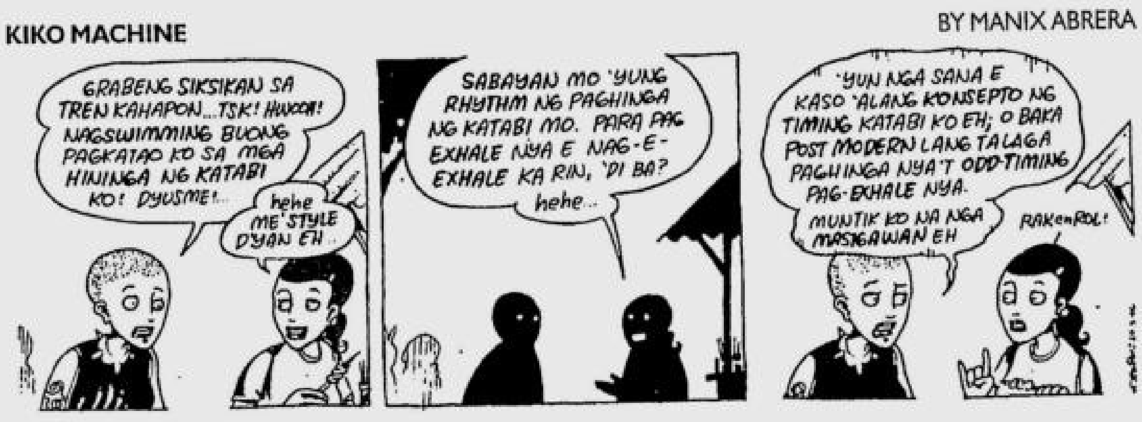
### BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


C'MON BEN! YOU'RE JUST SITTING AROUND ALL THE TIME! TAKE MICHAEL TO THE PARK OR SOMETHING! GET SOME EXERCISE!
OKAY, OKAY...
Z

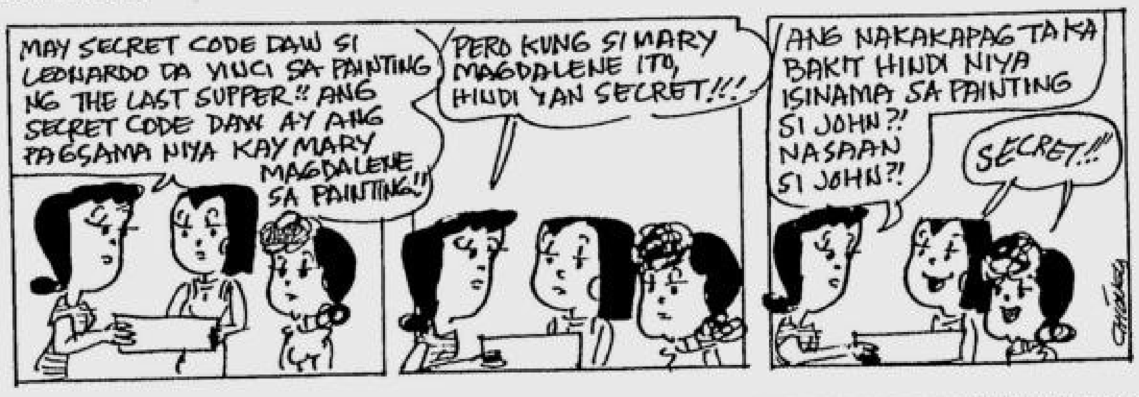
### KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


GRABENG SIKSIKAN SA TREN KAHAPON...TSK! HWOOH! NAGSWIMMING BUONG PAGKATAO KO SA MGA HININGA NG KATABI KO! DYUSME!...
hehe ME' STYLE D'YAN EH...
SABAYAN MO 'YUNG RHYTHM NG PAGHINGA NG KATABI MO. PARA PAG EXHALE NYA E NAG-E-EXHALE KA RIN, 'DI BA? hehe...
'YUN NGA SANA E KASO 'ALANG KONSEPTO NG TIMING KATABI KO EH; O BAKA POST MODERN LANG TALAGA PAGHINGA NYA'T ODD-TIMING PAG-EXHALE NYA.
MUNTIK KO NA NGA MASIGAWAN EH
RAKenROL!

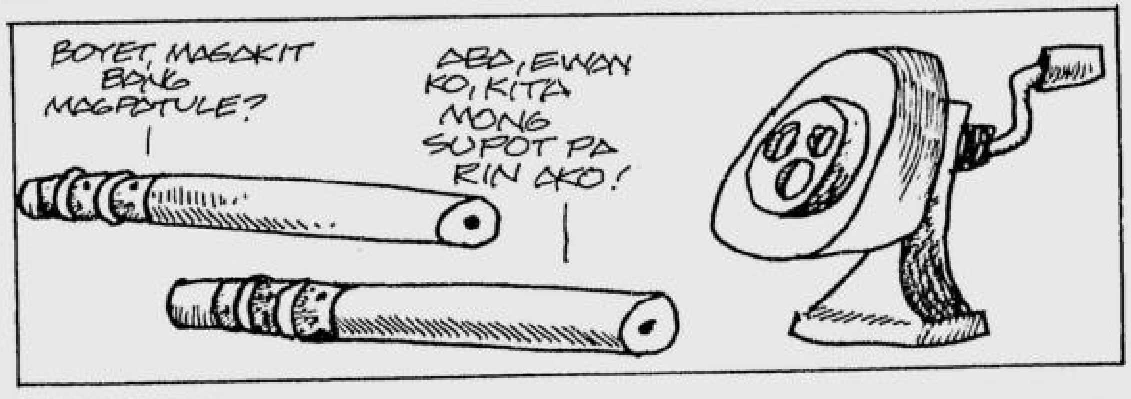
### LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


MAY SECRET CODE DAW SI LEONARDO DA VINCI SA PAINTING NG THE LAST SUPPER!! ANG SECRET CODE DAW AY ANG PAGSAMA NIYA KAY MARY MAGDALENE SA PAINTING!!
PERO KUNG SI MARY MAGDALENE ITO, HINDI YAN SECRET!!!
ANG NAKAKAPAGTAKA BAKIT HINDI NIYA ISINAMA SA PAINTING SI JOHN?! NASAAN SI JOHN?!
SECRET!!

### TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


BOYET, MAGAKIT BANG MAGPATULE?
ABA, EWAN KO, KITA MONG SUPOT PA RIN AKO!

MOSSIMO BIKINI GRAND PRIX 2006

# Body language on high speed

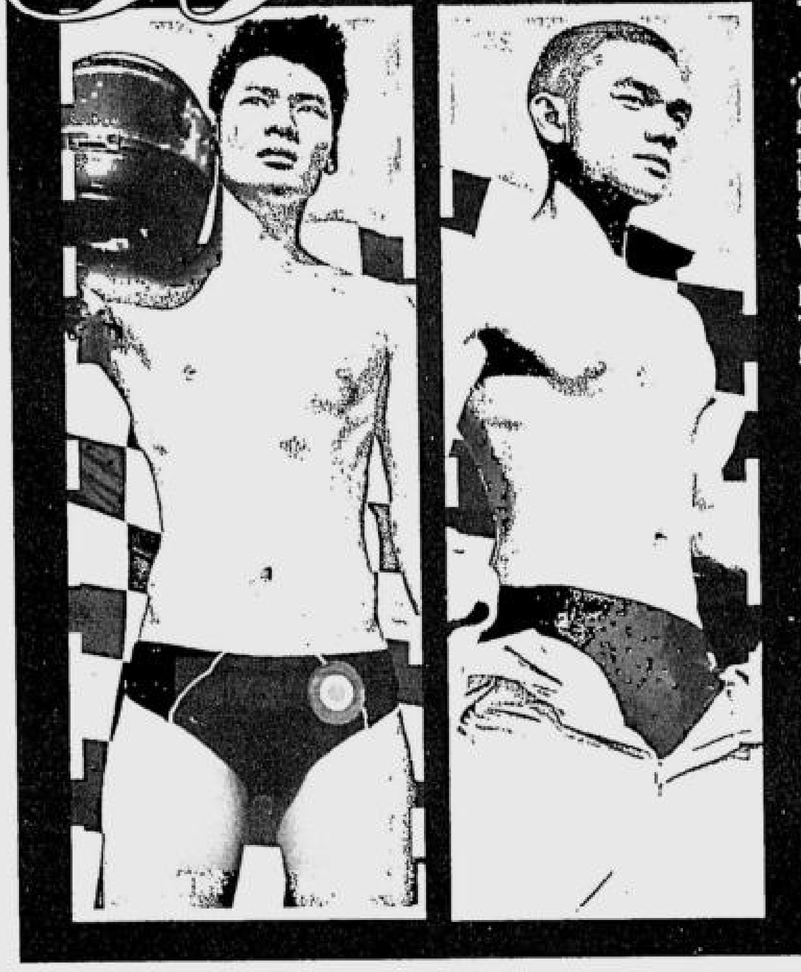
MAY 24 IS A DAY FOR SPEED, sports cars and sexy bodies. Mossimo and Asian Formula (F3) partnered to bring a special event at the NBC Tent called "Mossimo Bikini Grand Prix." The extra dose of hot bikes and cool cars will undoubtedly inject the fifth Mossimo Bikini Summit with more energy and excitement.

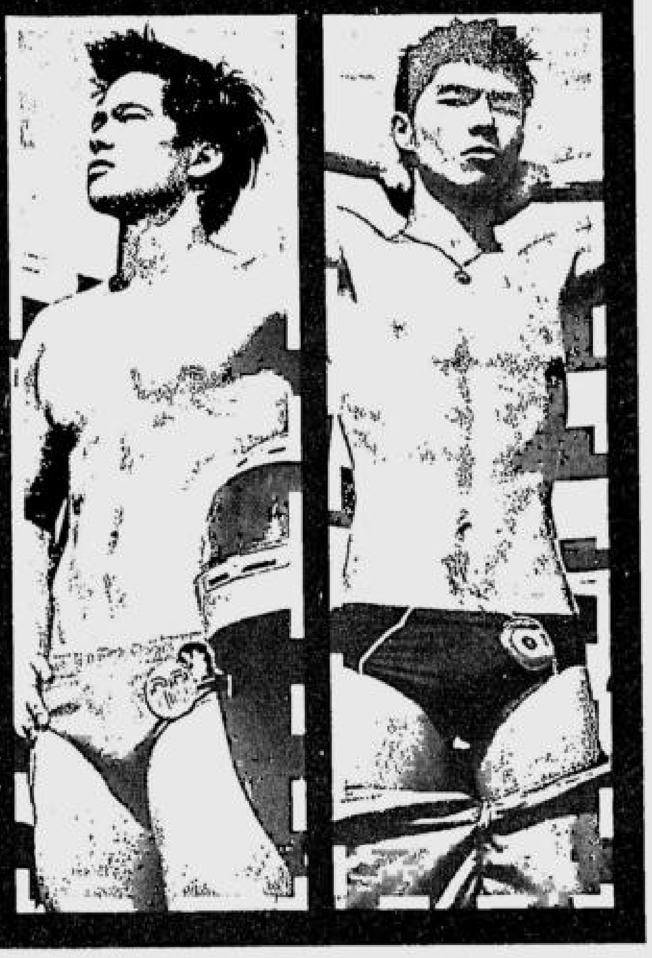
And the energy and excitement have been building up for weeks now. The final contestants were chosen from over 500 applicants between the ages of 18 and 25 and the contest has been keeping them busy. Press presentation at Discovery Suites last May 4, the Mossimo @ AF3 Race last May 7 and the packed days at Boracay from May 10 to 13.

But the biggest night is yet to come. On Wednesday, the twenty candidates will feed the audience's need for speed as they try to bag the prizes.

Fasten your seatbelts and brace yourselves for a high-speed night with Mossimo.

*Albert Pili*



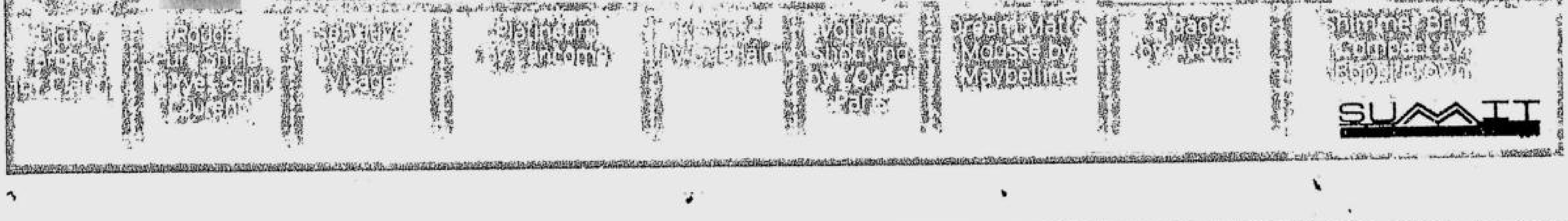


The 2006 Winners
of the Marie Claire
Prix d'Excellence
de la Beauté

The Prix d'Excellence de la Beauté is awarded every year to the best beauty buys in the world. Read Marie Claire magazine's May issue to find out why international beauty experts chose these amazing products.

marie claire
WHEN MONEY DRIVES YOU CRAZY
The Town Where Parents Want Gay Sons
fashion flair
BEAUTIFUL SMART REAL

THE PHILIPPINE BEAUTY JURY'S CHOICE


CLARINS
SENSITIVE
PLATINEUM
LANCÔME
VOLUME
matte mousse

Liquid Bronze Self Tanning by Clarins
Rouge Pur Shine Yves Saint Laurent
Sensitive by Nivea Visage
Platineum by Lancôme
by Guerlain
Volume Shocking by L'Oréal Paris
Dream Matte Mousse by Maybelline
Eluage by Avène
Shimmer Brick Compact by Bobbi Brown

SUMMIT

TALENTED TURNTABLIST. DJ Jessie Suaco brings on the bpms

# Temple of Boom!

From page E1

dissect the different parts of the vinyl turntable and CD mixer. It all felt like driving a car for the first time—kinda intimidating and a bit scary—especially with all the buttons and knobs I had to learn to control and stuff. But when I realized that, unlike driving a car for the first time, I wouldn't ram into a bus or fall into a ravine if or when I failed to properly cue a CD, my confidence came back scandalously fast. Music, please!

Following that speedy tutorial, we moved on to Lesson #2: "Learning to Layer a Track on Top of Itself," or something like that. By this time, Mon and I had moved to the vinyl turntables. (See, if you know how to mix vinyl, mixing CDs is a cinch. The reverse doesn't hold, though.)

DECKS ANDDRUMS ANDROCKN ROLL. The Stanton C-304 is what they use at Spin City.

Taking my love of technology too far, I grinned like an idiot when I found out that you could now mix MP3s in a DJ setup. Using Final Scratch-Traktor software, Spin City's PC mapped out my MP3s, turning them from mere megabytes into actual tracks I can manipulate through blank vinyl records. I guess that takes care of "the feel," something most old-school DJs say is missing when one handles CDs.

With that done, all I had to do next was to pick my guinea pig tracks. "Because the beats are very regular, deep house and beach house are the easiest to mix," Jessie advises. "Trance is trickier, while hiphop involves a lot of scratching."

## Bang that (ear)drum

But since I wanted a respite from the kind of music every DJ seems to play (i.e., house and/or hiphop), I said I eventually wanted to mix rock, which apparently takes a lot more skill. In the end I practiced with a little alt-country (Pete Yorn's "Strange Condition"), then some electro-punk (Scissor Sisters' "Comfortably Numb"), and finally—okay, I give—mainstream hiphop (Kanye West's "Touch The Sky"). Not bad, really.

We're all used to listening in stereo so it was a bit odd to hear things in mono: "When you mix, you need to listen to what's coming out of the speakers with one ear while listening to what's spinning on the turntable with the other at the same time," Mon reminds me. Tough, but again, I sailed through that, too.

The next lesson, though, was where most DJ students get stuck—pitch control. If you think everything so far was challenging enough, wait till two different tracks get tossed your way and it's your duty to figure out which has a faster or slower bpm (beats per minute).

With the CD mixer, it's a bit more forgiving. But on vinyl, you have to speed up or slow down the record manually (not to mention gracefully), adjusting the slide pitch to correspond with the slightest change in speed. When done right, the transition between songs is seamless and barely detectable. When it's off, however, the disjointed beats can bang up your eardrums worse than, er, William Hung. Remember him?

## Prime cuts

Anyway, I'm all set for the rest of the course—analyzing song structures, creating a playlist, and finally building up for a recital. It sounds like an epic ending for something that started out as a teenage hobby, but yeah, I'm more serious than not about wreaking havoc on the decks gangsta-jungle style. It seems my fellow Spin City apprentices, ranging from a 12-year-old girl to corporate types in their 40's, are just as amped.

Likewise, the peeps behind the DJ academy have awesome plans for the future. "We're working on offering other DJing skills like scratching (or turntablism) and "digitalism" (laptop or computer-based DJing) for the near term. Then, further on, music production and sound engineering," Mon discloses. "In the long run, it would be nice to see Spin City offer other music courses but not necessarily in the traditional mold of classical music colleges... becoming sort of a school for street music. Guitar lessons from your favorite rock star, anyone?"

So someday, when you go to a suitably trendy dive and hear a DJ spinning spacerock bonfire anthems (from, say, The Arctic Monkeys), along with breakbeat and electro, you can bet your white label remix it's me. By then, I should already be a bonafide beatmaster, applying everything I learned at Spin City.

*For inquiries about the 8-session CD mixing course (P6500) and vinyl mixing course (P8500), check out Spin City at the 5th Floor, Abba Building, Kalayaan Ave., Makati City (going to The Fort). E-mail them at hangthedj1@yahoo.com. Contact Jessie Suaco at 0917 8570987.*

*For enrollment details, contact the Center for International Education (CIE) at the 28th Floor, Yuchengco Tower, RCBC Plaza, Ayala cor. Buendia Ave., Makati City. Tel. (632) 887-2828 and (632) 753-2828. Website: www.ciemakati.edu.ph.*

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Every single receipt of at least ₱1,000 charged to your Citibank credit card gives you 2 ways to win ₱1,000,000.

1. Claim Instant Cash

Match the last 6 digits of your Citibank credit card number with the 6-digit approval code on your sales slip and get instant cash of up to ₱1,000,000. Just text the last 10 digits of your credit card number and the 6-digit approval code to 29768 to claim your prize.

More matching digits, more cash!

Example: If the approval code on your sales slip is 789000

| Credit Card Number | Match | Cash Prize |
|---|---|---|
| 4539 1234 5678 9000 | Last 6-digits | ₱1,000,000 |
| 4539 2222 2228 9000 | Last 5-digits | ₱10,000 |
| 4539 3333 3333 9000 | Last 4-digits | ₱1,000 |
| 4539 7777 7777 7000 | Last 3-digits | ₱100 |

If your approval code contains a letter, it will be converted to a number in the following manner:

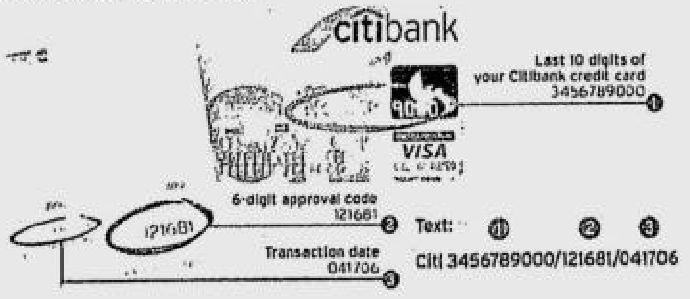
| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| A, B, C | 1 | P, Q | 6 |
| D, E, F | 2 | R, S | 7 |
| G, H, I | 3 | T, U | 8 |
| J, K, L | 4 | V, W | 9 |
| M, N, O | 5 | X, Y, Z | 0 |

Example: If the approval code on your sales slip is R89000, text in 789000.

2. Join the Raffle Draw

With or without a match, you also get a chance to win ₱1,000,000 in the raffle. Just text the last 10 digits of your Citibank credit card number and the 6-digit approval code on your sales slip to 29768. Each unique text you send earns you one raffle entry.

Follow these simple steps:



citibank
Last 10 digits of your Citibank credit card 3456789000 ❶
6-digit approval code 121681 ❷
Transaction date 041706 ❸
Text: ❶ ❷ ❸
Citi 3456789000/121681/041706

To join the raffle OR get your instant prize, text:

CITI<space>LAST 10 DIGITS OF YOUR CITIBANK CREDIT CARD NUMBER/
6-DIGIT APPROVAL CODE/TRANSACTION DATE (MMDDYY)
and send to 29768

Keep using your Citibank credit card from now until July 31, 2006 for more chances to be a millionaire! Call 995-9999 or visit www.citibank.com.ph for details.

See flyers for details. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 2323, Series of 2006.

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